

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS.



Annual Report  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR  
THE YEAR 1939

---

FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health  
and School Medical Officer.

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St. Helens:

WOOD, WESTWORTH & CO., LIMITED, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS,  
HARDSHAW STREET.



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## Health Committee.

*Chairman :*

ALDERMAN T. HAMBLETT, J.P.

*Deputy-Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR EVELYN PILKINGTON, C.B.E., J.P.

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THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR  
(Councillor N. Birch, J.P.).

ALDERMAN W. BURROWS, J.P.

„ R. ELLISON, J.P.

„ J. C. SIMM, J.P.

„ J. THACKRAY, J.P.

COUNCILLOR E. HOUGHTON, J.P.

„ F. A. LITHERLAND, J.P.

„ ELLEN MCCORMACK.

„ M. MCFARLANE, J.P.

„ R. RENNIE.

„ M. A. SHARD, J.P.

„ T. WOODS, J.P.

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## Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

*Chairman :*

ALDERMAN T. HAMBLETT, J.P.

*Deputy Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR EVELYN PILKINGTON, C.B.E., J.P.

---

THE HEALTH COMMITTEE,

and the following co-opted members :—

MRS. H. B. BATES, AND

MRS. B. MCGHIE.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF  
THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS.

**Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1939.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health the Report this year has been considerably curtailed, but it has been thought advisable to include all important statistics and tables that these may be preserved for record purposes.

The ever increasing duties in connection with Air Raid Precautions and, since September, 1939, with the Civil Defence Medical Services, have occupied a great proportion of the time of the Staff of the Department. Despite this, every endeavour has been made to keep the Health Services functioning normally. Especially has attention been paid to the continuance, without interruption, of the various Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Judged by the death and infant mortality rates, 1939 was not as healthy a year as 1938. For 1939 the death rate was 14.3 per 1,000 of the population and the infant mortality rate 79.5 per 1,000 live births as compared with a death rate of 14.0 and an infant mortality rate of 69.7 in the previous year. It is not considered, however, that any serious significance need be attached to these increases.

It is pleasing to note the low rate for maternal deaths, namely 2.56 per 1,000 total live and still births. This is the second lowest rate for maternal mortality since 1931.

Scarlet Fever was very prevalent, the total number of cases notified being the largest since the epidemic year of 1928. The type of the disease was, however, very mild, only one death occurring.

amongst the local notifications. The number of cases of Diphtheria is also maintained at the relatively high incidence rate which it had reached during the preceding 3 years.

All the staff, without exception, have put in many hours of overtime cheerfully and willingly, and to them I would put on record my deep appreciation and thanks. I would also take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council for their help and consideration in the conduct of my work.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres) .....	7,9
Estimated Population mid-year 1939 :—	
For calculation of birth rate .....	107,2
For calculation of death rate .....	106,6
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according	
to Rate Books .....	26,8
Rateable Value .....	£486,4
Product of a penny rate .....	£1,8

The Net Cost on the Rates of the various Health Services in St. Helens during the year ended the 31st March, 1940, as compared with the previous year is given below.

	Pence per £	
	1938-39	1939-
Isolation Hospital .....	6.384	6..
Tuberculosis .....	6.429	5.77
Maternity and Child Welfare .....	9.280	9.77
Venereal Diseases .....	.340	.33
Vaccination .....	.304	.22
Food and Drugs Acts .....	.231	.22
Slaughterhouse and Cold Stores .....	.374	.53
Contagious Diseases of Animals .....	.011	.01
General Sanitary and Administrative Charges	5.427	5.33
Main Drainage .....	1.451	1.07
Sewage Disposal .....	3.490	3.33
Building Inspection and Drain Testing .....	.636	.60
Sanitary Improvement .....	.113	—
Public Conveniences .....	.500	.44
*Collection and Disposal of Refuse .....	17.818	19.68
*Blind Persons .....	4.676	4.77
<b>Total Net Cost of Health Services</b>	<b>57.464</b>	<b>58.53</b>

\*Under the control of the Cleansing Committee and the Blind Welfare Committee respectively.



### STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, Administrative Tuberculosis Officer,  
Medical Superintendent of Corporation Hospitals, and School  
Medical Officer :

Frank Hauxwell, M.B., Ch.B. (Glasgow), D.P.H. (Camb.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

Gerald O'Brien, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrew's).

Assistant Medical Officers of Health :

Harold C. Calvey, M.B., Ch.B. (Liverpool), D.P.H. (Manchester). (On Service with H.M. Forces).

Enid M. Hughes, M.B., Ch.B. (Liverpool).

Ian M. McLachlan, L.R.C.P.I. and L.M., L.R.C.S.I. and L.M., D.P.H. (Resigned March, 1939).

Ronald G. Smithson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (From April, 1939).

Jean M. Barrowman, M.B., Ch.B. (Glasgow).

Wladimir Griffel, M.D. (Vienna), L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.S. (Glasgow).

Dental Surgeons :

Vincent Higham, L.D.S.

Arthur N. Leicester, B.D.S.

Jean M. Simpkin, L.D.S.

Sanitary Inspectors, etc. :

Ernest Sefton (1), (3), (6), (7), Chief Sanitary Inspector.

W. H. Ball (2), (3), (8), Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.

H. Lowe (2), (4) ..... Sanitary Inspector.

W. A. Young (2), (3), (8) ..... do.

J. G. Clements (2), (8) ..... do.

A. H. Jenkins (1), (3) ..... do.

\*S. R. Daly (2), (3), (4), (8) ..... do.

G. A. Evans (2), (8) (on Service with  
H.M. Forces) ..... do.

N. H. Owen (2), (4), Superintendent of Public Abattoir.

### Matrons of Corporation Hospitals :

\*Edith Carder, Borough Isolation Hospital and Eccleston Hall Sanatorium.

Kathleen Florence Johns, Borough Isolation Hospital.

Emily Lees, Eccleston Hall Sanatorium.

Edith Ellen Sansbury, St. Helens Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital.

### Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Superintendent :—\*Eleanor J. Moorehead (9), (10), (13).

Mary I. J. Abraham (9), (10), (11), (13)

Ethel Denman	(1), (12), (13)	Louisa Peace	(10), (13)
Mary Riding	(10), (13)	Caroline Good	(10), (13)
Emily Corrish	(10), (13)	*Gaynor Williams	(9), (10), (13)
Nora Hogan	(10), (13)	May Tonge	(9), (10), (13)
Mary Corrish	(10), (11), (13)	Florence Middlehurst	(9), (10), (13)
Alice Happold	(10), (12), (13)	Sophia McConnell	(10), (13)
Edith Curran	(10), (13)	Elsie Cornish	(9), (10), (13)
*Nellie Richardson	(10), (13)		

### Pupil Health Visitors :

Mary Teresa Ewing (10), (13)

Margt. Alice Brown (10), (11), (13)

Hilda Yorke (10), (11), (13)

Catherine Krogman (10), (13)

### Orthopaedic Nurse :

Winifred M. Russell (14)

### Tuberculosis Nurse :

Sarah A. T. Prescott (10), (13)

### Clerk Dispenser and Venereal Diseases Attendant :

Jas. McP. Hutton.

### Venereal Diseases Nurse :

Florence Wilkinson (10)

\*Resigned during the year.

- (1) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (2) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Liverpool University.
- (3) Certificate for Meat Inspection of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (4) Certificate for Meat Inspection of the Liverpool University.
- (5) Certificate for Sanitary Science of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (6) Diploma of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers.
- (7) Diploma of the Building Surveyor's Association.
- (8) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
- (9) New Health Visitor's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (10) General Trained Nurse.
- (11) Fever Trained Nurse.
- (12) Children's Trained Nurse.
- (13) State Certified Midwife.
- (14) Certificate of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics.

The following are part-time officers :—

District Medical Officers :—J. D. O'M. Poole, M.B., Ch. B. ;  
H. A. Lomax, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. ;  
J. A. Donnellan, M.B., Ch.B. ;  
T. R. O'Keeffe, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S. ;  
J. G. O'Keeffe, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Public Vaccinators :—H. B. Bates, L.S.A., L.M.S.S.A. ;  
J. S. Fox, M.B., C.M., M.R.C.S. ;  
J. G. O'Keeffe, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Physician to the X-ray Department, Tuberculosis Dispensary :  
J. Unsworth, M.B., B.S. (Lond.).

Orthopaedic Surgeon :—B. L. McFarland, M.D. (Liverp.),  
M.Ch. (Orth.), M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Ophthalmic Surgeon :—E. Allan, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.).

Ear, Throat and Nose Surgeon :—J. E. G. McGibbon, M.B.,  
B.S. (Lond.), D.L.O. (Eng.).

Obstetrician and Gynaecologist :—J. W. Burns, M.D. (Dublin),  
B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Speech Therapist :—Muriel W. Ferrie, M.S.S.T.

Public Analyst :—Herbert J. Evans, B.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S.

Veterinary Inspector :—A. H. Leyland, M.R.C.V.S.

## 1.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS.**—The chief industries of the town are coal mining and glass making.

The average number of persons unemployed in St. Helens and registered at the Labour Exchange during 1939 (as shown by the figures taken on Monday of each week) was 5,186 men, 702 women, and 453 juveniles (total 6,341). The largest number of unemployed men and women was 7,474 in January and among



juveniles 742 in February. The total for 1939 shows a decrease from the previous year, when the average total number of unemployed persons was 6,966.

The total amount of domiciliary relief granted in St. Helens by the Public Assistance Committee during the year ended 31st March, 1940, was £91,318/11/3d., of which sum £4,297/6/9d. was granted to unemployed men and their families. The corresponding amounts granted in the previous year were £97,116/13/7d. and £5,571/0/9d. respectively.

From St. Helens 325 men, 264 women and 153 children were admitted to the Poor Law Infirmary, and 70 men, 43 women and 17 children were admitted to the "House" during the year.

Under the National Health Insurance Act, the total number of insured persons in St. Helens on 1st October, 1939, was 49,114, comprising 36,805 men and 12,309 women, or approximately 46% of the total population. The corresponding figures for 1938 were 36,701 men and 11,986 women.

**METEOROLOGY.**—The total rainfall for the year, as measured at the Victoria Park Observatory, was 36.57 inches. The amount of rainfall recorded at Eccleston Hill Waterworks during the year was 34.81 inches.

The sunshine recorder at the Victoria Park Observatory recorded 1,326 hours of sunshine during 1939. The greatest duration of sunshine on any one day was 14.5 hours on 2nd, 5th and 10th June. There were 86 sunless days during the year.

The highest temperature in the shade during the year was on the 8th June when it reached 83.6° F., and the lowest was 14.8° F. on the 6th January.

The special gauge maintained in the centre of the town for the collection and measurement of the amount of atmospheric pollution showed the total solids deposited in St. Helens from the atmosphere during the year ending the 31st March, 1940, to be 12,955 metric tons per 100 square kilometres, or approximately 1,151 pounds per acre.



II.—VITAL STATISTICS.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR :

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births:—Legitimate.....	894	932	1,826
Illegitimate .....	13	20	33
	<hr/>		
Totals .....	907	952	1,859
	<hr/>		

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....17.3

Still Births :—M. 44, F. 44 ; Total : 88.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.....45.2

Deaths :—M. 655, F. 583 ; Total : 1,238.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....11.6

Death Rate per 1,000 adjusted to correspond for age and sex  
distribution with England and Wales as a whole ..... 14.3

Number of women dying from diseases and accidents of pregnancy  
and childbirth :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
From puerperal sepsis	1	0.51
From other puerperal causes	4	2.05
	<hr/>	
Totals .....	5	2.56
	<hr/>	

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate .....	79	64	143
Illegitimate .....	2	3	5
	<hr/>		
Totals .....	81	67	148
	<hr/>		

## Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	79
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	78
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	151
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) .....	1
„ Tuberculosis .....	7
Zymotic Death Rate .....	0.4

**POPULATION.**—Owing to the considerable movement of populations in the last quarter of 1939, the Registrar General has given two estimates of population for all areas for that year. For St. Helens these are

- (a) For calculating the birth rate 107,200
- (b) For calculating the death rate 106,600

These figures have been used in the calculation of statistics throughout this Report.

The estimated mid-year population for 1938 was 107,200.

**BIRTHS.**—Similarly two figures are given as to the number of births assignable to St. Helens during 1939. These are

- (a) The total number of births upon which the birth rate is calculated. This is the total number of births registered in St. Helens plus the number of births in other areas where the mother's usual residence was St. Helens and less the number of births in St. Helens where the mother's usual residence was in other areas. According to these calculations the number of births assignable to St. Helens for 1939 was 1,859.
- (b) The total number of births upon which the infant and maternal mortalities are calculated. In this case, as from the 1st October, 1939, births are assigned to the area

in which the mother may be temporarily residing as a result of the war. The number of births assigned by the Registrar General to St. Helens in accordance with this calculation for 1939 was 1,861.

**DEATHS.**—As with births, the Registrar General has made an alteration in the pre-war practice of transference of deaths to the area of usual residence. This practice has been maintained up to the 30th September, but as from the 1st October, in the case of persons temporarily residing away from home on account of the war, the deaths are not transferred to the areas of usual residence but are assigned to the areas of temporary residence.

The number of deaths assigned to St. Helens for the year was 1,238. This gives a crude death rate of 11.6 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 11.4 for 1938. The adjusted death rate for 1939 was 14.3 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 14.0 for the previous year. The death rate for England and Wales as a whole for 1939 was 12.1.

**Coroner's Inquests.**—During the year, 110 deaths were reported to the Coroner. In 59 of these the Coroner was able without an inquest to issue a certificate attributing the death to natural causes. In 51 instances where inquests were held, the deaths were recorded as attributable to :—

Colliery accidents	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Street accidents	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Accidents in works	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Drowning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Scalds and burns	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Other deaths from violence	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Natural causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Other causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
							<hr/> 51 <hr/>

**Causes of Death.**—Figures relating to the causes of, and ages at, death during the year are given in Table 1.



Table 1.

Causes of, and ages at, death during 1939.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	At Ages									
			0-1	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
All Causes .....	M F	655 583	81 67	8 8	17 8	14 20	17 26	28 21	46 40	75 52	111 75	136 136
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers .....	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Measles .....	M F	— 1	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Scarlet fever .....	M F	1 2	— —	— —	— —	1 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Whooping cough .....	M F	1 3	— 1	— 1	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Diphtheria .....	M F	11 12	— 1	— 1	8 3	3 7	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Influenza .....	M F	21 15	4 —	— —	— —	— —	1 3	1 1	1 2	3 1	— 4	3 3
Encephalitis lethargica .....	M F	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	1 —	— —
Cerebro-spinal fever .....	M F	1 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— 2	— —
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	M F	30 19	— —	— —	— —	— —	3 9	6 3	9 3	7 2	3 2	2 —
Other tuberculous diseases .....	M F	8 13	2 1	1 1	1 1	3 4	— 4	— 1	1 —	— —	— —	— —
Syphilis .....	M F	2 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	1 —	1 —	— —
General paralysis of the insane, tabes, etc. ....	M F	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	— —	— —
Cancer .....	M F	68 62	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 2	4 3	8 8	21 21	26 16
Diabetes .....	M F	5 7	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 3	2 —	— —	— 3
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc. ....	M F	19 40	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	2 6	5 8	9 16
Heart Disease .....	M F	125 118	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	5 5	4 3	3 5	16 13	22 18	41 39
Aneurysm .....	M F	2 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	— —
Other circulatory diseases .....	M F	59 34	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 —	13 4	17 14
Bronchitis .....	M F	30 25	— 1	1 1	1 —	— 1	— —	1 —	2 1	8 2	3 2	9 8
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	M F	43 35	12 11	2 3	2 —	— 3	— 1	1 1	2 3	8 2	6 2	7 6
Other respiratory diseases .....	M F	12 8	— —	1 1	— —	— 2	— —	1 —	— —	— —	4 1	4 1
Peptic ulcer .....	M F	11 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	4 2	4 —	1 —	— 1
Diarrhoea, under 2 years .....	M F	13 5	13 5	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Appendicitis .....	M F	3 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	2 —	— —
Cirrhosis of liver .....	M F	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1
Other liver diseases .....	M F	1 4	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— 1	1 2	— —
Other digestive diseases .....	M F	6 10	3 2	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— 1	— —	— 4	— —	1 1



Table 1—continued.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	At Ages										
			0-1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—
te and chronic nephritis .....	M	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	3	2
	F	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	5	2	4
perperal Sepsis .....	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
er puerperal diseases .....	F	4	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
genital debility, premature birth, etc. ....	M	40	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	40	39	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ility .....	M	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	25
	F	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	27
cide.....	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
er violence .....	M	35	1	2	1	1	5	8	5	2	5	5	—
	F	11	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	2	4
er defined diseases .....	M	51	6	1	1	5	1	4	6	5	11	6	5
	F	41	4	—	2	1	—	5	8	4	4	11	2
defined or unknown .....	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
rrhoea, 2 years and over .....	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1
Totals .....		1238	148	16	25	34	43	49	86	127	186	272	252

**Deaths from Tuberculosis.**—Tuberculosis was the cause of 70 deaths during the year—that is 5.65% of all deaths belonging to the borough. Of these deaths, 49 were attributable to tuberculosis of the lungs and 21 to other forms of tuberculosis. The ages at which these deaths occurred are shown in Table 1.

**Malignant Diseases.**—The deaths from these diseases during the past five years were as follows :—

AGE				1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Under 1 year .....				—	—	—	—	—
1—2 years .....				—	—	1	—	—
2—5 „ .....				—	—	—	—	—
5—15 „ .....				—	—	—	—	—
15—25 „ .....				2	—	—	—	—
25—35 „ .....				1	3	2	5	2
35—45 „ .....				11	9	11	10	7
45—55 „ .....				21	17	21	28	16
55—65 „ .....				32	54	39	37	42
65—75 „ .....				44	41	53	56	42
75 and over .....				10	19	17	19	21
Totals .....				121	143	144	155	130
Percentage of the total deaths .....				9.20	10.91	11.05	12.67	10.50
Death rate per 1,000 of population .....				1.12	1.32	1.34	1.45	1.22
Death rate per 1,000 of population, England and Wales .....				1.59	1.62	1.63	1.66	1.67

There would appear to be no relationship between the incidence of malignant diseases and industrial processes in St. Helens.

There are no special facilities in St. Helens for the diagnosis of Cancer. In regard to treatment, the Local Authority have made arrangements with the Lancashire County Council that any cases sent to the County Hospital, Whiston (the Public Assistance Institution for St. Helens) which, in the opinion of the Medical Superintendent of that Hospital would benefit by radium treatment, are transferred to the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, or to the Liverpool Radium Institute and Hospital for Cancer. Both local voluntary Hospitals also have arrangements whereby cases from their Institutions can be sent to Liverpool for treatment.

**Infant Mortality.**—During 1939 there were 148 deaths of children under one year of age. This corresponds to an infant mortality rate of 79.5 per 1,000 births. The infant death rate for 1938 was 69.7.

Further reference to this subject is made in the Maternity and Child Welfare Section.

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### III.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.**—The year 1939 was noted by the marked incidence of cases of scarlet fever. The number of notifications of this disease received showed the highest level since the epidemic year of 1928.

The incidence of diphtheria, however, did not tend towards any marked increase, the total number of notifications being only slightly in excess of the previous year.

As to the epidemic catarrhal diseases, there was a marked decline in the occurrence of cases of measles, which disease had reached epidemic proportions towards the end of 1938. There was a corresponding drop, though not so noticeable, in the number of cases of whooping cough.

Amongst the non-notifiable diseases there was, compared with the previous year, a very marked decrease in the number of cases of mumps, but the incidence of cases of chickenpox was increased.





Table 4.

Infectious Diseases.—Number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified each week in 1939.

Week Ending	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Typhus Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Polio-myelitis	Polio-encephalitis	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis
Jan. 7	—	15	11	—	2	—	—	2	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 14	—	18	14	1	2	—	—	1	14	—	3	—	—	—	1
" 21	—	19	7	2	14	—	—	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	1
" 28	—	22	18	—	10	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feb. 4	—	19	10	2	16	—	—	2	6	—	—	1	—	—	—
" 11	—	9	13	2	8	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 18	—	21	14	1	13	—	—	—	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
" 25	—	23	15	3	9	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mar. 4	—	26	13	1	10	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 11	—	37	12	3	7	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
" 18	—	34	14	1	8	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
" 25	—	23	5	—	5	—	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	1
Apr. 1	—	17	10	—	10	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 8	—	18	6	2	7	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
" 15	—	17	5	2	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 22	—	10	11	1	12	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
" 29	—	14	4	1	6	—	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
May 6	—	14	11	2	11	—	—	1	6	—	1	1	—	—	—
" 13	—	19	7	1	5	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
" 20	—	29	4	1	8	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 27	—	16	7	2	6	—	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
June 3	—	18	5	—	7	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
" 10	—	11	8	—	9	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 17	—	15	4	2	8	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
" 24	—	22	8	3	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
July 1	—	15	6	3	6	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 8	—	21	9	9	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 15	—	19	6	10	6	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 22	—	13	9	9	4	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
" 29	—	19	12	2	9	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Aug. 5	—	14	6	7	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
" 12	—	22	2	8	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
" 19	—	13	8	2	8	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 26	—	15	7	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sept. 2	—	11	8	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
" 9	—	20	9	4	12	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
" 16	—	25	13	9	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 23	—	29	9	8	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 30	—	22	14	14	3	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oct. 7	—	23	13	4	12	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	2	—	—
" 14	—	23	16	14	10	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 21	—	31	9	8	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
" 28	—	24	7	14	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nov. 4	—	20	12	6	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 11	—	20	10	7	11	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
" 18	—	15	7	7	7	—	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
" 25	—	22	13	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dec. 2	—	15	13	9	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
" 9	—	19	5	4	5	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 16	—	11	6	18	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 23	—	16	6	15	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 30	—	12	8	26	1	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total .....	—	995	479	265	361	1	—	46	118	—	32	7	4	1	5



**Table 5.**

Notification of Infectious Diseases received during the undermentioned years.

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Smallpox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	255	148	147	281	286	543	590	671	577	995
Diphtheria .....	162	121	86	203	231	225	482	463	437	479
Measles .....	1026	2332	512	4092	1177	1416	1569	992	1776	265
Whooping Cough .....	516	43	394	1580	185	1032	102	880	500	361
Enteric Fever .....	3	1	—	11	2	2	1	2	1	1
Dysentery .....	2	—	15	1	1	—	10	3	19	—
Erysipelas .....	72	52	58	80	77	70	92	63	53	46
Pneumonia .....	251	226	308	469	234	295	307	275	128	118
Typhus Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever .....	17	7	6	2	10	9	8	7	}31	32
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	13	8	8	12	19	14	17	29		
Ophthalmia										
Neonatorum .....	14	3	7	6	7	14	12	8	8	7
Poliomyelitis.....	—	—	—	12	—	1	1	2	2	4
Encephalitis										
Lethargica .....	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	17	10	—	1	2	3	3	5
Malaria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**SMALLPOX.**—No case of smallpox was notified during the year.

**SCARLET FEVER.**—During 1939, 995 cases were notified. This was the greatest number of cases recorded for many years. The incidence of the disease was widespread throughout the town and singularly uniform in occurrence, with a tendency, perhaps, towards greater activity in the autumn months.

It is satisfactory to record, however, that the disease was markedly mild in type. Sequelae to the disease were the exceptions and only 1 death occurred. Though the death returns from the Registrar General show 3 deaths from scarlet fever as assignable to St. Helens for the year, two of these were deaths in other areas of patients usually resident in the Borough. The case mortality was thus extremely low, and towards the end of the year there was a tendency towards a milder and more sporadic incidence.

During the year 2 cases developed mastoiditis and were successfully operated on.

The following statement shows the age distribution of all cases occurring and of the deaths :—

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of Cases.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Case Mortality.</i>
Under 5 years .....	318	—	—
5—15 years .....	583	1	0.18%
Over 15 years .....	94	—	—

**DIPHTHERIA.**—The greatest incidence of the disease during the year was in spring and autumn, although there was a steady occurrence during other months. The disease showed a particular severity in young children under 5 years and the deaths in this age group were high. Other age groups escaped comparatively lightly.

The following statement shows the age distribution of the cases occurring and of the deaths :—

<i>Age.</i>	<i>No. of Cases.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Case Mortality.</i>
Under 5 years .....	115	13	11.30%
5—15 years .....	303	10	3.30%
15—45 years .....	59	—	—
Over 45 years .....	2	—	—

The above table shows only too well the urgent need of more immunisation. The ravages of the disease can and must be prevented in the age group 1—5 years. Pressure, through propaganda in clinics and elsewhere, was again brought to bear on parents, and despite the heavy demands on the staff occasioned by the outbreak of war the number of children immunised at last showed a definite and welcome increase. The figure is yet too small, but the work will go on.

The following figures show the work carried out at the Immunisation Clinic during 1939 as compared with 1938 :—

	1938	1939
No. of children tested as to susceptibility .....	201	323
No. of children immunised .....	164	662
No. of children who failed to complete the immunisation treatment .....	14	46
Total attendances at the Clinic .....	954	2685

These figures do not include cases immunised by private practitioners, but it is believed that such are relatively very small.

For the treatment of diphtheria, antitoxin is available, without charge, for medical practitioners, either at the office of the Medical Officer of Health or at the Borough Isolation Hospital. During the past year considerable use has been made of this service.

**ENTERIC FEVER.**—One case of enteric fever was notified during the year and was admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Investigation proved this to be a case of *B. Typhosus* infection, but despite all enquiries the source of infection could not be discovered.

**MEASLES.**—The epidemic of measles which reached its height at the end of 1938 declined rapidly in the spring of 1939. There was a slight tendency towards an increase in the number of cases towards the end of the year, but not to any notable extent. Case mortality was low.

The following statement shows the age distribution of the cases and deaths :—

<i>Age.</i>	<i>No. of Cases.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Case Mortality.</i>
Under 5 years .....	142	1	0.70%
5—15 years .....	121	—	—
Over 15 years .....	2	—	—



During the year the facilities offered by the Corporation were utilised for a limited number of cases. 1 case was admitted to the Isolation Hospital and the District Nurses paid 36 visits to cases for home nursing.

**WHOOPING COUGH.**—The number of cases of the disease showed a gratifying decrease from the previous year. The incidence of the disease lessened throughout the progress of the year and tended to be low in the later months.

The age distribution of cases and deaths during 1939 was as follows :—

<i>Age.</i>	<i>No. of Cases.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Case Mortality.</i>
Under 5 years .....	240	4	1.67%
5—15 years .....	121	—	—
Over 15 years .....	—	—	—

**PUERPERAL PYREXIA.**—32 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year, and 1 death was reported as due to puerperal sepsis.

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.**—7 cases were notified during the year and all recovered with vision unimpaired.

**CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS AND ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.**—Five cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis were notified during the year—3 adults and 2 children. One of the adult cases terminated fatally, but the other four cases recovered. The cases occurred at wide intervals during the year and there was no factor pointing to local or seasonal incidence. A further 2 deaths (adults) were returned as having been caused by this disease, but no notifications were received in respect of these. Five cases of acute



poliomyelitis in children occurred during the year and recovery occurred in all cases, although leaving residual paralysis. The after treatment of 4 of these children was undertaken by the Orthopaedic services of the Corporation, one child being transferred to Heswall and the others transferred to the care of the Orthopaedic Centre. The remaining case remained under the care of a private practitioner.

**ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.**—One case of this disease in a child was notified during the year and terminated fatally. From the death returns it would appear that another fatal case of the disease occurred, but this was not formally notified.

**ACUTE POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS.**—No case of this disease was notified during the year.

**ERYSIPELAS.**—During 1939, 46 cases of erysipelas were notified. No deaths occurred.

**DYSENTERY.**—No cases of dysentery were notified during 1939.

**MALARIA.**—No case was notified during 1939.

**BOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**—The severe incidence of scarlet fever and the continued occurrence of diphtheria taxed the resources of the Hospital severely during the year. The highest number of patients under treatment at any one time was 138, as compared with 125 in the previous year, while the lowest number was 79, as compared with 39 in 1938. Table 6 sets out in detail the analysis of admissions and gives a picture of the amount of work accomplished during what proved to be a very difficult year for hospital organisation.

The number of available beds in the Hospital now totals 104.

**Table 6.**

Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital.

Hospital Diagnoses of cases treated during 1939.

DISEASE	In hospital Jan. 1st, 1939	Admitted	Discharged	Died	In hospital Jan. 1st, 1940
Scarlet Fever .....	48	908	906	1	49
Diphtheria .....	31	405	379	23	34
Puerperal Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	13	12	1	—
Venereal Disease .....	—	1	1	—	—
Measles .....	—	1	1	—	—
Other Diseases .....	10	179	176	10	3
Mothers with sick babies	—	—	—	—	—
Babies with sick mothers	—	14	14	—	—
Total .....	89	1521	1489	35	86

Of the 908 cases of scarlet fever admitted, 69 (7.6%) were return cases.

**AMBULANCE PROVISION.**—Three motor ambulances are kept at the Isolation Hospital to convey patients to any of the Corporation Hospitals, and a Morris Van for the conveyance of bedding, etc. During the year the total distance travelled was 28,594 miles.

Though urgent cases are at all times conveyed to the hospital without delay, there is no regular night ambulance service.

**DISINFECTION.**—Disinfection of premises by means of formalin sprays is carried out by the disinfectors from the Medical Officer's Department, and bedding and articles of clothing, etc., are disinfected by steam or other appropriate method at the Borough Isolation Hospital. During the year the disinfectors dealt with 2,195 premises, and the numbers of articles disinfected at the Isolation Hospital were as follows :—

	Articles.
Blankets, Sheets and Rugs .....	13,629
Hospital Clothing and Bedding .....	11,752
Pillows and Cushions .....	8,376
Mattresses, etc. ....	5,270
Other Articles of Clothing .....	11,219
Library Books .....	632
Other Articles .....	11,672

There is no municipal cleansing station, but facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of persons and their belongings are afforded at the Borough Isolation Hospital. School children are also removed to this Institution for compulsory cleansing when required. The steam disinfector is also used for the disinfestation of bedding, etc. of families re-housed from slum property.

IV.—LABORATORY WORK.

The majority of the routine bacteriological and pathological examinations are carried out by the medical staff at the Borough Laboratory at the Town Hall, but bloods for the Wasserman reaction and specimens of an unusual nature are examined at the City Laboratories, Liverpool. Table 7 shows the numbers of specimens dealt with during 1939.

Table 7.

SPECIMENS.	Number Received	Results	
		Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria .....	8279	557	7722
Sputa for Tuberculosis .....	598	202	396
Hairs for Ringworm .....	1	—	1
Blood for Wasserman Reaction .....	122	26	96
Films for Gonococci .....	132	50	82
Pus and other fluids and discharges for various organisms .....	77	22	55
Blood Tests for Transfusion Service .....	33	—	33
Other Specimens .....	377	19	358
Total .....	9619	876	8743



Outfits for the collection of specimens of sputa, blood, throat swabs, etc., are supplied free of charge.

Specimens requiring chemical analysis are dealt with by the Public Analyst at his laboratories, but during the past year 325 informal samples of milk were subjected to the Gerber Test at the Borough Laboratory. In 18 of the latter samples the test indicated deficiencies.

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## V.—TUBERCULOSIS.

**INCIDENCE.**—During 1939, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 57 cases of pulmonary and 39 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. A further 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified posthumously. In addition 7 cases of pulmonary and 4 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were transferred to St. Helens from other areas. The total number of new cases dealt with during the year was therefore 109, of which 64 were pulmonary and 45 non-pulmonary.

Of the 57 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis for which formal notification was received during 1939, 11 died during the year and the average duration of life after notification in these cases was 10.7 weeks. In 5 cases death occurred within 4 weeks of notification.

At the end of 1939 there remained on the Tuberculosis Register 427 cases of pulmonary and 346 cases of non-pulmonary disease.

The age grouping of the new cases that occurred during the year is shown in Table 8, and the number of cases notified each year since 1912 in Table 9.

**Table 8.**

Particulars of new cases and of deaths during 1939.

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years .....	1	—	4	3	1	—	3	2
5 to 15 years .....	1	3	10	13	—	1	1	—
15 to 25 years .....	8	11	5	5	2	5	4	1
25 to 35 years .....	9	9	—	3	7	10	2	—
35 to 45 years .....	14	7	—	—	8	6	—	—
45 to 55 years .....	11	5	—	—	9	2	—	—
55 to 65 years .....	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 — .....	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
Totals .....	47	38	19	24	30	27	10	3

**Table 9.**

Number of cases notified and number of deaths each year, 1912 to 1939.

Year	No. of Primary notifications received.		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1912	130	—	91	65	9.27	6.02
1913	253	164	100	90	10.05	9.0
1914	207	116	113	65	11.2	6.45
1915	203	126	99	56	10.7	6.07
1916	189	137	127	41	14.1	4.5
1917	198	62	121	42	13.3	4.64
1918	144	40	107	34	11.8	3.75
1919	150	56	99	31	9.8	3.08
1920	221	65	82	37	7.9	3.53
1921	179	63	102	32	9.7	3.05
1922	167	58	78	39	7.3	3.66
1923	141	45	85	27	8.0	2.52
1924	154	75	118	27	10.8	2.48
1925	141	88	97	25	8.8	2.28
1926	140	68	91	32	8.2	2.92
1927	129	61	74	22	6.5	1.95
1928	139	68	84	21	7.6	1.90
1929	130	50	91	24	8.3	2.2
1930	119	53	73	26	6.7	2.4
1931	110	67	103	17	9.5	1.6
1932	141	48	72	16	6.7	1.5
1933	107	60	79	11	7.3	1.0
1934	94	40	72	23	6.7	2.1
1935	83	31	65	9	6.0	0.8
1936	75	48	72	7	6.7	0.6
1937	87	46	60	15	5.6	1.4
1938	74	35	57	13	5.3	1.2
1939	57	39	49	21	4.6	1.9

**MORTALITY.**—During 1939 there were referable to the Borough 70 deaths from all forms of tuberculosis, 49 of these being due to pulmonary and 21 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Of the latter, 7 were due to tuberculous meningitis. The ages at which these deaths occurred are shown in Table 8, and the number of deaths and the death rate from each form of the disease since 1911 in Table 9. The latter Table shows very clearly the great decrease which has occurred both in the incidence of and deaths from tuberculosis since this disease was made notifiable.

**TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.**—At the Tuberculosis Dispensary 5 sessions, including 2 evening ones, are held weekly for ordinary cases. A further special session is also held weekly for radiography and X-ray therapy alternately. Practically all the attendances at the Dispensary are by appointment. Routine home visiting is carried out by the Health Visitors, and the special Tuberculosis Nurse, who is attached to the Dispensary, pays special visits as and when required.

A record of the work in connection with the Dispensary during the last 5 years is shown in Table 10.

Of the 232 cases examined for the first time during 1939 125 were referred by medical practitioners, 59 were referred by the medical officers of the Maternity and Child Welfare or School Medical Services, 14 sought the services of the Clinic spontaneously and only 34 were notified prior to their initial attendance. The percentage of actual cases of tuberculosis seen by the Tuberculosis Officer before notification was 63.4 per cent.

Of the 773 known cases of tuberculosis in St. Helens, 622 or 81 per cent. have been seen by the Tuberculosis Officer, and of the 107 new cases placed on the Tuberculosis Register during the year, 74 (69.2 per cent.) were examined by him at one time or another.

Intratracheal lipiodol injection was performed in 7 cases for diagnostic purposes, and the final diagnoses in these cases were—bronchiectasis 4 and carcinoma 3.



TABLE 10.

Record of work at or in connection with the Tuberculosis Dispensary during the years 1935—1939.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
1. Cases examined for the first time .....	221	222	262	275	232
2. New contacts examined for the first time .....	135	87	97	83	57
3. Cases transferred from other areas or returned after discharge from the Register .....	6	2	2	11	10
Total .....	362	311	361	369	299
4. Cases and contacts diagnosed to be tuberculous :					
Pulmonary—Adults .....	68	59	69	63	41
„    Children .....	5	4	5	5	5
Non-pulmonary—Adults .....	5	12	10	11	9
„    Children .....	23	28	22	22	19
Total .....	101	103	106	101	74
5. Contacts diagnosed to be tuberculous ( <i>included in item 4</i> ) .....	2	1	1	1	3
6. Removed from Dispensary Register as :—					
Non-tuberculous .....	261	199	263	254	221
Recovered .....	45	37	37	40	25
Dead (all causes) .....	62	61	53	62	49
Transferred to other areas or lost sight of .....	18	13	22	13	9
Total .....	386	310	375	369	304
7. “Recovered” cases restored to Register ( <i>included in items 1 and 4</i> ) .....	1	—	—	—	—
8. Cases on Dispensary Register on 31st December :—					
Diagnosis completed :					
Pulmonary—Adults .....	271	261	258	254	249
„    Children .....	145	137	129	126	124
Non-Pulmonary—Adults .....	53	53	57	61	63
„    Children .....	180	187	192	194	191
Diagnosis not completed :					
Adults .....	11	9	8	7	11
Children .....	7	21	10	12	11
Total .....	667	668	654	654	649
9. Pulmonary cases on Register on 31st December which were T.B. + .....	130	132	135	142	139
10. Consultations with medical practitioners (personal and other) .....	128	128	164	206	187
11. Sputum examinations .....	170	94	98	121	97
12. X-ray examinations .....	378	513	637	940	882
13. Home visits by Tuberculosis Officer .....	74	115	106	118	86
14. Home visits by Nurses or Health Visitors .....	2043	2096	1713	1476	1313
15. Attendances at Dispensary .....	2358	1723	1368	1575	1327



**DENTAL TREATMENT.**—In-patients at Eccleston Hall Sanatorium are examined regularly by the Dental Surgeon, and minor treatments such as extractions, fillings, etc., are carried out and in special cases dentures are supplied. There is no special scheme for dealing with patients attending the Dispensary, but urgent cases are from time to time referred to the Dental Surgeon for treatment.

During the year 66 patients were treated at Eccleston Hall Sanatorium, and treatment was provided for 11 dispensary cases.

**INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.**—During 1939 the arrangements for institutional treatment remained as in previous years. At the Council's own Sanatorium at Eccleston Hall there is accommodation for 70 patients, and practically all types of cases except acute surgical cases can be dealt with at that Institution. During the year 100 patients were admitted, 98 were discharged and 24 died. The average length of stay of patients who were discharged was 216 days, and of those who died 230 days. Of the 24 who died, 6 had been in the Sanatorium for less than 8 weeks.

During the year 28 patients were undergoing artificial pneumothorax treatment ; 16 inductions were performed and one induction unsuccessfully attempted. Refills totalled 399, including a number performed on outpatients. 8 patients received courses of calcium or gold salts, administered either intravenously or intramuscularly. All treatment is controlled by serial X-ray examination and blood sedimentation tests.

By arrangement with the Maternity and Child Welfare Officer cases of tuberculous females in the early stages of pregnancy are admitted to the Sanatorium and kept there under constant supervision until transferred direct to the Maternity Hospital for confinement.



The Sanatorium school provides education for child inmates able to attend, and bedside tuition is given to those medically fit to benefit therefrom.

In addition to the accommodation at the Council's Eccleston Hall Sanatorium, 4 beds are reserved at the Liverpool Sanatorium, Delamere, for early pulmonary cases, and an average of 7 beds are kept in constant use at the Leasowe Open-Air Hospital for Children for non-pulmonary cases.

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## VI.—VENEREAL DISEASES.

The arrangements for treatment and for the bacteriological examination of specimens, remained as in previous years.

An analysis of the work carried out, at or in connection with the Venereal Diseases Centre, is shown in Table 11.

During 1939 there was no increased incidence in the number of fresh cases of syphilis, either male or female, coming under treatment for the first time. At the same time the outbreak of war affected the local continuity of treatment, particularly amongst male cases, and there were quite a few defaulters towards the end of the year.

There was a rise in the incidence of primary cases of gonorrhoea amongst males, but a decrease in similar cases amongst females. Treatment of cases of gonorrhoea by M. & B. 693 now forms an integral part of the clinic work, and very satisfactory results continued to be obtained.

Table 11.

Record of work carried out at or in connection with the  
Venereal Diseases Centre during 1939.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
Number of cases on 1st January under treatment or observation .....	12	15	—	—	12	19	—	2	24	36	60
Number of cases removed from the register during any previous year which returned during the year under report for treatment or observation of the same infection .....	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	5	5
Number of cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report (exclusive of cases under Item 4) .....	6	9	—	—	40	14	12	38	58	61	119
Number of cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report known to have received treatment at other Centres for the same infection .....	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
Totals of Items 1, 2, 3 and 4.....	18	26	—	—	55	36	12	40	85	102	187
Number of cases discharged after completion of treatment and final tests of cure .....	2	1	—	—	18	2	12	37	32	40	72
Number of cases which ceased to attend before completion of treatment.	7	5	—	—	15	8	—	—	22	13	35
Number of cases which ceased to attend after completion of treatment but before final tests of cure	—	—	—	—	7	3	—	—	7	3	10
Number of cases transferred to other centres or to institutions, or to care of private practitioners .....	—	1	—	—	6	1	—	1	6	3	9
Number of cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December .....	9	19	—	—	9	22	—	2	18	43	61
Totals of Items 5, 6, 7, 8 and .....	18	26	—	—	55	36	12	40	85	102	187
Number of attendances— (a) for individual attention of the medical officers .....	351	254	—	—	287	146	21	101	659	501	1160
(b) for intermediate treatment, e.g., irrigation, dressing .....	10	—	—	—	1600	1484	16	—	1626	1484	3110
TOTAL ATTENDANCES .....	361	254	—	—	1887	1630	37	101	2285	1985	4270

Table 11—continued.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
11. In-patients :—										
(a) Total number of persons admitted for treatment during the year .....	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
(b) Aggregate number of "in-patient days" of treatment given .....	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	20
12. Number of cases of congenital syphilis in Item 3 above classified according to age periods .....	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 years and over		Totals	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—

## VII.—NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

There were during 1939 no alterations in the general nursing arrangements or of the hospital facilities available for the district and these remained as detailed in the Annual Report for 1938.

## VIII.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

**NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.**—Under the Notification of Births Acts, 2,005 live births and 92 still-births were notified during the year. For these, 1,942 notifications were received from midwives and 155 from doctors. The total number of live births registered as belonging to St. Helens for the year was 1,859 as compared with 1,952 in 1938, and the birth rate for the year was 17.3 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 18.2 per 1,000 during 1938.



**INFANT MORTALITY.**—During 1939, the deaths of 148 infants under one year of age occurred, giving an infant mortality rate of 79.5 per 1,000 births as compared with 69.7 for the previous year. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales was 50 per 1,000 births, and for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns 53 per 1,000 births.

The principal causes of the deaths in 1939 were as follows :—

Congenital debility, malformation and premature birth.....	79
Pneumonia .....	23
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases .....	1
Whooping Cough and Measles .....	2
Diarrhoea, etc. ....	18
Other Digestive diseases .....	5
Influenza .....	4
Violence .....	2
Diphtheria .....	1
Other defined diseases .....	13
	-----
	148
	-----

The following statement reviews the infant death rates per 1,000 births under the principal causes in the years 1934 to 1939.

	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births.					
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Congenital Debility, malformation and premature birth .....	40.19	46.90	29.80	49.10	38.42	42.49
Pneumonia, Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	10.17	22.22	11.62	19.54	12.30	12.91
Measles and Whooping Cough .....	1.45	5.92	1.52	2.50	3.59	1.08
Diarrhoea, etc. ....	2.91	7.40	4.55	4.01	5.12	9.68
All other Diseases .....	10.65	11.85	8.59	12.53	10.25	13.45

The ages at which these deaths occurred during these years are shown in the following statement :—

	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births.					
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Deaths under 1 day old .....	13.56	15.30	11.11	19.54	13.83	13.99
Deaths 1 to 7 days old .....	10.65	15.30	11.11	16.03	15.37	16.68
Deaths 1 to 4 weeks old .....	11.62	14.81	8.59	15.03	9.22	11.83
Total mortality under 1 month old, i.e., neo-natal deaths .....	35.83	45.41	30.81	50.60	38.42	42.50
Deaths 4 weeks to 3 months old .....	7.26	13.82	5.05	10.52	9.73	10.76
Deaths 3 to 6 months old .....	8.71	15.80	7.58	10.52	8.71	10.76
Deaths 6 to 12 months old.....	13.56	19.24	12.63	16.03	12.81	15.60

**STILL-BIRTHS.**—The number of still-births registered for St. Helens during the year was 88. All the still-births occurring in the borough were notified under the Notification of Births Acts.

Special enquiries are made into all still-births, and from such enquiries into the 92 cases notified in St. Helens during 1939, the causes of still-birth in these cases would appear to be as follows, viz. :—

CONDITION IN MOTHER.		CONDITION IN CHILD.	
Renal Disease .....	17	Prematurity .....	19
Accidental Haemorrhage .....	12	Breech delivery .....	12
Placenta Praevia .....	5	Cord around neck .....	1
Difficult labour .....	7	Prolapsed Cord .....	3
Toxaemia of Pregnancy .....	3	Anencephaly .....	3
Cause not known .....	3	Hydrocephaly.....	5
		Spina Bifida .....	1
		Shoulder presentation .....	1
	—		—
	47		45
	—		—

**MATERNAL DEATHS.**—During 1939, 5 deaths (1 from puerperal sepsis and 4 from other puerperal causes) were registered as resulting from diseases and accidents of pregnancy. The maternal mortality for the year was, therefore, 2.56 per 1,000 live and still-births. This is the second lowest maternal mortality rate since 1931.

As in previous years special enquiries were made into all maternal deaths certified as such and also into all deaths in which, though not certified as due to puerperal causes, there was reason to suspect that the deaths were associated with pregnancy or parturition. During 1939 it was found that 3 other deaths, 2 certified as due to Broncho-pneumonia and 1 as due to Rheumatic Myocarditis, were closely associated with pregnancy.

In these 3 cases, although the pregnancy was not the direct cause of death, the condition of the mother was such that the pregnancy would form a contributory cause of death. The total number of maternal deaths for 1939 therefore should be 8, making the maternal mortality rate for the year 4.10.

The following table gives the causes of these deaths :—

Puerperal Septicaemia .....	1
Toxaemia of Pregnancy .....	2
Broncho-pneumonia .....	2
Obstetric Shock .....	1
Ruptured Uterus .....	1
Rheumatic Myocarditis .....	1
	—
	8
	—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**—During the year 32 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified. These cases were diagnosed as :—

Puerperal Septicaemia .....	3
Localised Pelvic Infection .....	11
Pyelitis .....	5
Mastitis .....	5
Pneumonia .....	3
Phlegmasia Alba Dolens .....	3
Tonsillitis .....	1
Pernicious Anaemia .....	1
	—
	32
	—



Beds are available for these cases at the Borough Isolation Hospital, and home nursing can be arranged with the District Nursing Association. During the year 16 patients were treated in the Isolation Hospital, 9 at the St. Helens Hospital, and 7 were nursed at home by the District Nursing Association. The services of the Consultant Obstetrician were sought on 3 occasions. One case of puerperal septicaemia died. All the other cases recovered.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—7 cases were notified during the year. 4 of these were treated at home under the Council's arrangements with the District Nursing Association and 2 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. All recovered with vision unimpaired.

**Pemphigus.**—7 cases of pemphigus neonatorum occurred in 7 midwives' practices. All these cases were nursed at home by the District Nursing Association. The midwives were suspended from duty and their premises, clothing and instruments disinfected.

**Other Infectious Diseases.**—The following table shows the numbers of cases of other infectious diseases which occurred in children under 5 years of age, and the deaths resulting therefrom.

	Under 1 year		1—5 years	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever .....	3	—	315	—
Diphtheria .....	3	1	112	12
Measles .....	30	1	112	—
Whooping Cough .....	36	1	204	3
Pneumonia .....	6	12	21	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	7	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	—	—	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	3	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	1	—	—	—

**Home Nursing and Hospital Arrangements.**—The arrangements with the St. Helens and District Nursing Association for the home nursing of cases of whooping cough, measles, ophthalmia

neonatorum and pneumonia in young children and of puerperal pyrexia cases remained as in previous years. During 1939 the following cases were attended by district nurses under these arrangements :—

Measles and contacts .....	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	4
Pemphigus and contacts .....	7
Maternity .....	11
Puerperal Pyrexia and contacts .....	13
Influenza .....	2
	—
	43
	—

Beds are also available at the Isolation Hospital for cases requiring hospital treatment and during the year 2 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, 16 cases of puerperal pyrexia, 2 cases of measles, and 3 cases of whooping cough were admitted to that Hospital.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.—

During the year 30 midwives, all holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, notified their intention to practise within the borough. Of these 17 were in private practice and 13 were members of the Council's Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

In addition to the above, 10 midwives are employed at the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, and 5 midwives are employed in the maternity block of the St. Helens Hospital.

Seven midwives surrendered their Certificates under Section 5 of the Midwives Act, 1936, and were compensated.

During the year the private and municipal midwives attended 1,068 cases as midwives and were in attendance on 259 cases as maternity nurses.

In their capacity as midwives they found it necessary to call medical practitioners to their assistance on 351 occasions. The reasons for sending and the number of occasions in which medical assistance was required were as follows :—

Number of cases attended by midwives .....	1,068	
Number and percentage in which medical assistance was obtained .....	351	(32.8 %)
Reasons for medical assistance :—		
(a) For abortions and premature labours .....	42	( 3.9 %)
(b) For ante-natal illnesses .....	16	( 1.4 %)
(c) For difficult labour .....	86	( 8.0 %)
(d) For suturing the perineum, expelling the placenta, excessive haemorrhage, etc. ....	108	(10.1 %)
(e) For post-natal illnesses .....	33	( 3.0 %)
(f) For the child .....	66	( 6.1 %)

**MUNICIPAL MIDWIFERY SERVICE.**—The following table gives a summary of the work done by the staff of the Municipal Midwifery Service during 1939 :—

Number of cases attended—		
as midwife .....	842	
as maternity nurse .....	100	
	—	942
Number of Live Births .....		887
Number of Still Births.....		36
Number of abortions .....		33
Number of cases in which midwife sent for medical assistance .....		268
Supervisor's visits to midwives' homes and inspection of records and equipment .....		247

The present staff consists of 13 midwives and 1 Supervisor.

The fees charged for this service are the same as those charged by private midwives, and the remission of the whole or part of these fees is allowed in necessitous cases, in accordance with a scale of income adopted by the Council.



**HEALTH VISITING.**—The following statement shows the visits paid by health visitors during the year.

To expectant mothers :—

(a) First visits .....	960
(b) Subsequent visits .....	1,902

To infants under one year :—

(a) First visits .....	1,967
(b) Subsequent visits .....	7,706

To children, aged one to five years .....

20,584

Total Visits .....	33,119
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**MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.**—There are three private maternity homes registered in St. Helens. These have been periodically inspected and found to be satisfactory. During the year 108 maternity cases were delivered in these homes.

Exemption from the provisions regarding registration was granted to the St. Helens Hospital and the Providence Free Hospital. In the maternity block of the St. Helens Hospital, 280 cases were delivered.

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.**—

The work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics was continued throughout the year. At the outbreak of war it was decided to continue the normal routine at all the clinics and the soundness of this decision was proved by the ready response of the mothers to avail themselves of the usual services rendered by the different clinics. Apart from a temporary slight decrease in the numbers attending during the first few weeks of the war the attendances have been practically normal. Air raid shelters have been provided at or near each clinic and shelter is taken whenever an alert is sounded during the course of a session. The attendances at the various maternity and child welfare clinics during 1939 are shown in the accompanying table 12.

TABLE 12.

Attendances at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

	1938	1939
<b>Child Welfare Clinics.</b>		
No. of children who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—		
(i) under 1 year of age .....	1409	1345
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years .....	1212	652
Percentage of notified births represented by the number of children who on the date of their first attendance were under 1 year of age .....	67.13	67.08
Number who attended and at the end of the year were—		
(i) under 1 year of age .....	1238	1219
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years .....	2702	2253
No. of attendances by children—		
(i) under 1 year of age .....	14511	14162
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years .....	3911	3460
<b>Test-feeding Clinic.</b>		
No. of nursing mothers who attended .....	49	66
No. of attendances .....	57	76
<b>Ante-natal Clinics.</b>		
No. of expectant mothers who attended .....	1389	1274
No. of attendances by expectant mothers .....	6154	6042
Percentage of total notified births (live and still) represented by the number of expectant mothers who attended either the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres or the Ante-natal Clinics .....	62.94	60.70
<b>Gynaecological and Post-natal Clinic.</b>		
No. of Mothers who attended .....	359	544
No. of attendances .....	714	613
<b>Sunlight Clinic.</b>		
No. of Children who attended.....	178	110
No. of attendances .....	2985	1926
<b>Toddlers' Clinics.</b>		
No. of Toddlers who attended .....	581	700
No. of attendances .....	1936	1953

Child Welfare Clinics for children under 5 years of age are conducted at 11 sessions weekly at six centres. In connection with these clinics a Test Feeding Clinic is held twice weekly at the Albion Street Centre to ensure that no child is unnecessarily artificially fed. During 1939, 66 mothers attended this special clinic. In 46 cases breast feeding was continued and instructions regarding supplementary feeds were given to the mothers in the other 20.

At the special Ante-Natal Clinics held six times weekly at 5 centres, 1,274 mothers attended, representing 60.70% of the total notified (live and still) births. The majority of these mothers were normal cases and needed no special treatment beyond general supervision of their health and well being during the somewhat trying days of pregnancy. Even these normal patients, however, constantly assert that the fact that they are assured that "so far everything is alright" has a good effect on them. In 309 cases (24.2%) various disabilities were detected and treated. Many of these complained of defects such as mild indigestion, constipation, dental caries, back-ache, varicose veins and cramps, and were easily remedied. In other patients more serious defects were diagnosed and needed special treatment. Of these there were 28 cases of contracted pelvis, 43 cases of albuminuria, 17 cases of toxæmia, 4 of cardiac disease, 3 patients with phthisis, and 15 malpresentations. All these special cases responded well to their appropriate treatment.

#### **GYNAECOLOGICAL AND POST NATAL CLINIC.**

—This is held once weekly and during 1939 a total of 544 patients made 613 attendances. 264 of these were mothers who attended for examination after confinement, and 227 of them were found to be in good health and 37 were treated for conditions such as anaemia and debility, constipation, subinvolution, prolapse, asthma and bronchitis. 280 other women attended for advice for various gynaecological reasons, e.g. displacements of uterus, anal fissure, menorrhagia and leucorrhœa, etc. 19 of the patients were given advice on Birth Control methods for the following conditions:—renal disease 9, cardiac disease 7, tuberculosis 2, diabetes mellitus 1.



**SUNLIGHT CLINIC.**—This is held at two sessions weekly at the Town Hall Clinic. During the year 110 children attended on 1,926 occasions and their general health was much improved by means of this artificial sunlight therapy. The majority of the diseases with which the children were referred were rickets, marasmus and general debility.

**HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.**—At the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, Cowley Hill, there are 20 beds for maternity cases and 32 cots for children.

At the beginning of 1939 there were 17 maternity patients in hospital and 475 were admitted during the year, making a total for the year of 492. The average duration of stay in hospital was 14.5 days. 72 cases were admitted for ante-natal treatment. The number of deliveries during the year was 416 and amongst these there were 95 abnormal cases classified as follows :—

Caesarean Section .....	14	Phthisis .....	1
Induction of labour .....	14	Gonorrhoea .....	1
Breech .....	15	Eclampsia .....	1
Albuminuria .....	12	Retained placenta .....	1
Accidental haemorrhage	9	Prolapsed cord .....	1
Twins .....	5	Face presentation .....	1
Toxaemia of pregnancy	4	Hydrocephaly.....	1
Post-partum haemorrhage	4	Anencephaly .....	1
Cardiac disease .....	4		—
Episiotomy.....	3		95
Forceps delivery .....	2		—
Ruptured uterus .....	1		

3 maternal deaths occurred at the hospital during the year, the causes of death being respectively (1) Toxaemia of pregnancy, (2) Ruptured uterus, (3) Rheumatic Myocarditis.

There were 27 still births and 10 infants died within 10 days of birth.

During the year 83 children were admitted to the children's wards of the hospital and with 24 remaining in hospital from the previous year, made the total number of children in hospital during

the year 107. Of the 83 children admitted during the year, 37 were admitted for care whilst the mother was in the maternity ward and the remainder were mainly cases of marasmus and debility.

**CONSULTANT SERVICES.**—The services of a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist are available for any case in which special difficulty is experienced. He acts as Consultant Surgeon to the Council's Maternity Hospital and to all the clinics, and, under the Council's arrangements for the treatment of puerperal pyrexia, his services are available to medical practitioners requiring specialist opinion in such cases.

The services of the Council's other consultant officers, e.g., the Ophthalmic Surgeon, the Throat and Nose Surgeon, and the Orthopaedic Surgeon, are also available and employed when required for any cases under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

**MILK FOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS.**—At all the clinics full cream dried milk and chocolate milk are available at cost price or at less than cost price in necessitous cases. Approximately 394 cwts. of milk and chocolate milk were disposed of, and of this 755 lbs. were issued free and 39,059 lbs. at less than cost price.

**STERILE MATERNITY OUTFITS.**—These are available for purchase by expectant mothers and during the year 814 were supplied. In addition to the maternity outfits, maternity bags may be obtained in cases of necessity and these bags were lent to 7 mothers during the year.

**MINOR AILMENTS AND DENTAL DEFECTS.**—Seven children received treatment for minor ailments at the School Clinic, and 234 mothers and 161 children received dental treatment at the Dental Clinic during the year. As in previous years mothers who need dentures are supplied with them at cost price, and toddlers may be supplied with spectacles when these are needed in the treatment of squint.

**CRIPPLED CHILDREN.**—A complete record of the work of the Orthopaedic Clinic is given in Table 13 in the Orthopaedic section of the Report.

From that table it will be seen that under the Maternity and Child Welfare Service 216 crippled children under 5 years of age were dealt with. This involved 335 attendances to see the Orthopaedic Surgeon, 885 attendances for intermediate treatment, and 49 home visits by the nurse for purposes of supervision. 3 cases were admitted to the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital for operative treatment, and 2 cases of rickets were admitted to the Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital for supervisory treatment.

**CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.**—Particulars are given in the following statement of the cases dealt with during the year.

Number of persons on the Register who were receiving children for reward at 31/12/39 .....	6
Number of children :—	
(a) On the Register at 1/1/39 .....	8
(b) Admitted to the Register during the year .....	6
(c) Removed from the Register during the year—	
(i) Left the Borough.....	3
(ii) Legally adopted .....	1
(iii) Returned to relatives .....	2
(iv) Over age .....	2
	— 8
(d) Who died during the year .....	—
(e) On the Register at 31/12/39 .....	6

The children were inspected regularly throughout the year by the Health Visitors, who are also child protection visitors, and all were found to be well cared for and living under satisfactory conditions.

## IX. ORTHOPAEDICS.

A summary of the work of the Orthopaedic Department during 1939 is given in Table 13, and Table 14 shows the cases treated during the year, classified according to their defects.

The practice of the Orthopaedic Nurse holding District Clinics in outlying districts has been continued and has led to better supervision of cases. The Nurse also attends Eccleston Hall Sana-



torium and the Hamblett Open Air Council School every week. In-patient treatment is mainly provided at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital and its branches at Heswall, Thingwall and at the Leasowe Open Air Hospital for Children. Very young children are dealt with at the Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, Cowley Hill, and occasional Convalescent and Ambulant Tuberculous cases are admitted to the Eccleston Hall Sanatorium.

**Table 13.**  
Record of work under Orthopaedic Scheme during the year 1939.

	Tuberculous Cases	Maternity and Child Welfare Cases	Non- tubercular School Children
Number of cases on the Register, 1st January, 1939 .....	23	109	383
Number of new cases seen during 1939 .....	4	107	115
Number of old cases seen during 1939 .....	23	109	383
Number who attended for consultation only .....	—	—	2
Number discharged cured or improved .....	—	61	138
Number discharged showing no material improvement .....	—	—	2
Number ceased to attend, over age, etc. ....	4	13	43
Cases transferred to Education Account .....	8	22	—
Cases transferred to Tuberculosis Account .....	—	2	1
Number of cases remaining under treatment at end of 1939 .....	18	118	344
Attendances to see Orthopaedic Surgeon .....	44	335	740
Attendances for intermediate treatment .....	116	885	4241
Visits to Homes by Orthopaedic Nurse .....	217	49	134
Cases treated in Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital : Myrtle Street .....	—	1	7
Heswall .....	1	2	10
Cases treated in Leasowe Open-Air Hospital for Children .....	5	—	—
Cases treated in Royal Southern Hospital .....	—	—	5
Cases treated in Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital .....	—	2	—
Cases treated in Eccleston Hall Sanatorium .....	8	—	1
Total number of days of Institutional Treatment .....	1921	286	984

Table 14.

Defects treated under Orthopaedic Scheme during 1939.

Defect	Tuberculous Cases	Maternity and Child Welfare Cases	Non-tubercular School Children
Infantile Paralysis .....	—	7	50
Other forms of Paralysis .....	—	14	44
Rickets .....	—	53	45
Congenital deformities .....	—	41	49
Acquired foot deformities .....	—	94	122
Traumatism .....	—	—	6
Arthritis .....	—	1	4
Postural defects .....	—	—	132
Miscellaneous .....	—	6	14
Tuberculosis :			
(a) Spine .....	14	—	—
(b) Hip .....	7	—	—
(c) Knee.....	7	—	—
(d) Ankle .....	1	—	—
(e) Others .....	1	—	—
Total .....	30	216	466

## X.—WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

There were 222 Blind Persons on the Blind Register for St. Helens on the 1st January, 1939, and this number decreased by 9 to 213 during the year. The following is an analysis of the cases on the register at the 31st December, 1939.

## Age distribution :—

Age	0—4	years	.....	.....	.....	—
	5—15	„	.....	.....	.....	12
	16—20	„	.....	.....	.....	7
	21—49	„	.....	.....	.....	58
	50—69	„	.....	.....	.....	73
	70—	„	.....	.....	.....	63
						—
	Total		.....	.....	.....	213
						—

## Educational and occupational distribution :—

Infant	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Education	.....	At school	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
		Not at school	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Employment—Employed (Workshops or Home Workers							
	Scheme)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
	Employed (Working on own account)				.....	.....	5
	Under training	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
	Not training but trainable	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
	Unemployable	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	158
	Trained, but unemployed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

All provision for the care and welfare of the local blind—with the exception of that of blind children under two years of age, and the education of children of school age and vocational training—is undertaken on behalf of the Corporation by the St. Helens and District Society for the Welfare of the Blind.

## XI.—POOR LAW MEDICAL RELIEF.

The arrangements for institutional treatment remain as before ; the Council retaining their agreement with the Lancashire County Council for the treatment of cases at the County Hospital, Whiston. Table 15 shows the number of persons in receipt of institutional relief on medical grounds on the 1st January, 1940, and also the number of rate-aided persons in mental hospitals.

For outdoor medical relief the town is divided into five medical relief districts for each of which there is a part-time District Medical Officer. During the 12 months ending 31st March, 1940, 2,977



medical orders were issued and there was an average of 270 persons on the permanent medical relief list. During the same period 13,786 prescriptions were completed by the chemists in connection with the treatment of these cases.

**Table 15.**

Establishments in which persons were relieved.	Men	Women	Children between 3 and 16 years of age	Infants under 3 years of age	Total
(A). <i>In Poor Law Establishments :—</i>					
County Hospital, Whiston :					
(a) Sick wards .....	17	11	2	3	33
(b) Persons suffering from mental infirmity and certified under the Lunacy Acts or the Mental De- ficiency Acts .....	42	50	—	—	92
(B). <i>In Establishments not administered under the Poor Law Acts :—</i>					
(a) Establishments for persons suffering from mental infirmity, excluding persons maintained under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890 to 1930, in Mental Hospitals :—					
Royal Albert Institution .....	1	—	—	—	1
(b) Other Establishments for the Sick—					
Maghull Home for Epileptics .....	2	4	—	—	6
David Lewis Epileptic Colony, Manchester.....	1	1	—	—	2
Chalfont Epileptic Colony, Bucks.	—	1	—	—	1
(C). <i>In Mental Hospitals administered under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts :—</i>					
Rate-aided persons .....	133	134	—	—	267
TOTALS .....	196	201	2	3	402

Dental cases are treated at the Council's Dental Clinic, the work being carried out at a special evening session held weekly. 299 cases were treated during the year at that Clinic. To 36 of these dentures were also supplied, and in 8 cases dentures were repaired.

Cases with eye diseases or defects are treated by the Ophthalmic Surgeon at either the St. Helens Hospital or the Providence Hospital.

## XII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**—There is a municipal abattoir with cold stores attached.

The inspection and supervision of all meat in the abattoir is carried out by the Abattoir Superintendent, who is a qualified Meat Inspector. All animals are subjected to ante and post-mortem inspection.

The butchers using the abattoir employ their own slaughtermen, and these are licensed yearly under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. During the year licences were renewed to 28 slaughtermen. No additional licences were granted.

In addition to the Public Abattoir there is one private slaughterhouse in the borough. This is licensed for the slaughter of pigs only, and the licence comes up for review yearly. Licences were renewed to the three slaughtermen employed. During the year 218 visits for inspection purposes were made to this slaughterhouse, and no infringements of the Byelaws with respect to Slaughterhouses or of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, were found.

Under Section 135 of the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, it is necessary for any person (other than a shop-keeper) who sells meat or meat food products from a vehicle, basket or barrow, to hold a certificate from the Corporation approving the accommodation used by him for storage purposes. One certificate of approval was granted during the year, and this is the only certificate at present in force.

Table 16 shows the number of animals killed and inspected, and the number of carcasses, or parts of carcasses or organs, condemned at the public abattoir and at the private slaughterhouse during 1939.

The inspection and supervision of other foodstuffs in the borough, and of the premises in which they are prepared or sold, is undertaken by a specialist Food Inspector.

At the end of the year 161 premises were registered under Section 127 of the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, for the preparation or manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled, or preserved meat, fish or other food intended for the purpose of sale.

During 1939, 3,383 visits were made by Inspectors to shops, stalls and other places where food is prepared or stored, as compared with 2,615 visits during 1938. The following is a brief summary of the work covered by these visits. Further details are given in the appropriate sections of the Report.

Table 16.  
CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Public Abattoir.					Private Slaughterhouse.				
	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed .....	532	3357	113	684	5703	—	—	—	—	1960
Number inspected .....	532	3357	113	684	6133*	—	—	—	—	1960
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis :—</b>										
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	10	4	—	17	—	—	—	—	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	70	761	—	5	1560	—	—	—	—	552
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	13.16%	22.9%	3.53%	0.73%	25.71%	—	—	—	—	28.57%
<b>Tuberculosis only :—</b>										
Whole carcasses condemned .....	6	42	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	86	1512	—	—	491	—	—	—	—	159
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	17.29%	46.29%	0.88%	—	8.05%	—	—	—	—	8.11%

\* Of this number 430 pigs killed elsewhere were brought to the abattoir for inspection purposes.



Premises	Visits	No. of offences against Acts, Orders, &c.	No. of nuisances or defects found	No. of nuisances or defects remedied after service of notice
Private Slaughterhouses .....	218	—	—	—
Fried Fish shops .....	311	12	12	12
Fishmongers and Greengrocers .....	784	56	1	—
Butchers' shops .....	970	29	4	4
Grocers' Shops .....	213	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises .....	265	—	1	1
Bakehouses .....	103	16	36	34
Tripe Boilers, etc. ....	233	1	1	1
Food Preparing and Storing Places .....	286	14	10	9

The following are the total quantities of various classes of foodstuffs which were condemned at the abattoir or in shops, etc., during the year, owing to being diseased or unsound :—

Meat .....	122,132 lbs.
Fish .....	2,591 lbs.
Poultry, Game and Rabbits .....	96 lbs.

**Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.**—Only four infringements of these Regulations were found during the year. These referred to the cleansing and whitewashing of rooms used as meat stores. In each case the unsatisfactory condition was remedied after service of notice.

**Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1928.**—There are no premises in the Borough registered for the cold or chemical storage of eggs.

No infringements of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) (Eggs) Regulations, 1930, were found during the year.

**Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.**—The Orders in relation to foodstuffs, which have been made under this Act, require that any classes of foodstuffs to which they relate shall on importation, or on exposure for sale, be clearly marked with an indication of origin.

1,967 visits were made during the year for the purpose of ensuring that the requirements of these Orders were being complied with. On 56 occasions warnings were given regarding minor infringements.

## MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS.

**Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915.**—One person was warned by the Health Committee during the year for carrying on the trade of dairyman without being registered by the Sanitary Authority.

**Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.**—At the close of the year there were registered :—

- 8 persons as cowkeepers and wholesale and retail purveyors of milk ;
- 1 person as cowkeeper and wholesale purveyor of milk ;
- 8 persons as cowkeepers and retail purveyors of milk ;
- 355 persons as purveyors of milk ; and
- 64 premises as cowsheds or dairies.

A total of 662 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to these premises during the year. In addition to these visits, all dairy cattle are inspected quarterly and as occasion arises by the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Inspectors.

One dairyman was warned during the year by the Health Committee for delivering milk in bottles which had not been filled and closed on registered premises.

**Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 & 1938.**—The following licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, during the year :—

Licence authorising the use of the special designation ‘Tuberculin Tested’ in respect of the establishment at which the milk is produced and bottled .....	1*
Licences authorising the use of the special designation “Accredited” in respect of the establishment at which the milk is produced and bottled .....	7
Licences authorising the use of the special designation “Pasteurised” in respect of the establishment in which the process of pasteurising is carried on, and in respect of any shop or other establishment from which the milk is sold .....	2
Licences authorising the use of the special designation “Tuberculin Tested” from an establishment (not being the establishment at which the milk is produced and bottled) .....	2

\* *This herd is also on the Ministry of Agriculture’s Register of Attested Herds.*

No fees are charged by the Council in respect of licences granted under this Order.

**Biological Examination of Milk.**—In the routine examination of milk supplies, 98 samples were sent during the year for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli by guinea-pig inoculation tests.

Deducting from the 98 samples 2 samples in respect of which the guinea-pigs died too soon for a definite diagnosis to be made, positive evidence of tubercle bacilli was found in 10, or 10.4% of the samples taken. This is higher than the corresponding percentage for the previous year (7.7%).

Table 17 shows the percentage of infected samples and the area of production of the samples examined during the past four years.



**TABLE 17.**  
Tubercle Bacilli in Milk.  
Areas of production of samples examined.

Area	Year	No. of routine samples examined	No. of samples in respect of which the guinea-pig died too soon for a definite diagnosis to be made	No. of samples in respect of which a definite diagnosis was made	Samples shewing positive evidence of tubercle bacilli	
					Number	Percentage
1936						
St. Helens.....		50	3	41	6	14.6%
Lancashire C.C. ....		63	—	45	3	6.6%
Cheshire C.C. ....		33	—	29	3	10.3%
Liverpool .....		2	—	2	1	50.0%
* Pasteurised .....		19	—	16	—	—
Total .....		167	3	133	13	9.7%
1937						
St. Helens.....		40	1	39	—	—
Lancashire C.C. ....		46	1	45	4	8.8%
Cheshire C.C. ....		32	1	31	—	—
Liverpool .....		2	1	1	1	100.0%
* Pasteurised .....		15	—	15	—	—
Total .....		135	4	131	5	3.8%
1938						
St. Helens.....		35	—	35	1	2.8%
Lancashire C.C. ....		44	—	44	6	13.6%
Cheshire C.C. ....		23	—	23	1	4.3%
Liverpool .....		1	—	1	1	100.0%
* Pasteurised .....		13	—	13	—	—
Total .....		116	—	116	9	7.7%
1939						
St. Helens.....		25	—	25	1	4.0%
Lancashire C.C. ....		34	—	34	5	14.7%
Cheshire C.C. ....		26	2	24	3	12.5%
Liverpool .....		2	—	2	1	50.0%
* Pasteurised .....		11	—	11	—	—
Total .....		98	2	96	10	10.4%

**Bacteriological Examination of Milk.**—In addition to the samples of milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli, 164 samples were also taken for examination for bacterial count, for the presence of coliform bacilli and for the methylene blue reduction test. The results of the examinations are shown in Table 18.

**TABLE 18.**  
Bacteriological Examination of Graded and Ungraded Milks.

No. of Samples	Grade	Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	Failed to satisfy Methylene Blue Test	Number of bacteria per m.l.				Colon Bacilli present in 1/100th m.l.
				Under 30,000	30,000 to 100,000	100,000 to 200,000	Over 200,000	
6	Tuberculin Tested (Certified) .....	6	—	4	2	—	—	—
8	Tuberculin Tested .....	8	—	4	2	1	1	—
51	Accredited .....	47	4	44	5	—	2	6
69	Ungraded Milk from Accredited Producers	65	4	53	10	1	5	7
2	Ungraded Milk from Ordinary Producers .....	2	—	2	—	—	—	1
28	Pasteurised .....	—	—	22	3	—	3	2

From that table it will be seen that all the 14 samples of tuberculin tested milk satisfied the tests required by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. Of the 51 accredited milk samples 4 (7.8%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue tests and in 6 (11.7%) samples bacillus coli was found in 1/100th millilitre or less. As one of these samples failed in both tests the number of samples of accredited milk not complying with the standards laid down was 9, i.e. (17.6%).

Of the 69 samples of ungraded milk from accredited producers, 4 (5.8%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test and 7 (10.1%) contained bacillus coli in 1/100th millilitre. Of the two samples of milk from ungraded producers each satisfied the methylene blue test, but 1 (50.0%) contained bacillus coli in 1/100th millilitre.

Of the 28 samples of pasteurised milk, 3 (10.7%) contained bacteria in excess of 100,000 per millilitre and, therefore, failed to comply with the standards set for such samples.

#### **Examination of Milk for the presence of Phosphatase.**

—Six samples of milk were taken during the year for examination for the presence of phosphatase.

Five of these samples were reported by the Analyst to have been properly pasteurised and one sample was reported to have been improperly pasteurised.

**Milk-in-Schools Scheme.**—Very strict supervision of milk supplied to schools under the Milk-in-Schools Scheme is still being maintained.

The milk now supplied is either raw milk for which the producers hold graded licences, or milk for which pasteurisers' licences have been granted. During the year 78 school departments and 12 meals centres were supplied with milk by 6 suppliers with 7 separate sources of supply.

The number of samples taken during 1939 was as follows :—

(a) Chemical Analysis .....	322
<i>These samples are additional to the routine samples taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and the Gerber method of analysis is used.</i>	
(b) Bacteriological Examination .....	73
(c) Examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacillus .....	31



If, upon examination, a sample of milk is found to contain evidence of tubercular infection, approval of the supply is immediately withdrawn and arrangements are made by the Department for an alternative supply to be provided. Approval is also withdrawn where two or three consecutive samples show excessive bacterial counts or coli content.

**Ice Cream Premises.**—The following are the particulars at the end of the year of registrations under the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, of manufacturers and vendors of Ice Cream and the premises used by them :—

Manufacturers and Vendors .....	34
Vendors only .....	108
Premises for manufacture and sale .....	34
Premises for sale only .....	111

A total of 265 visits of inspection were made during the year.

7 samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination with the following results :—

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Bacteria per m.l.</i>	<i>Presence or absence of coliform bacillus in 1/100th m.l.</i>	<i>Does sample satisfy methylene Blue Test</i>
994	256,000	Present	Yes
995	Uncountable	Present	No
996	„	Present	No
1	„	Present	No
2	„	Present	No
38	„	Present	No
39	„	Present	No

**Artificial Cream Act, 1929.**—No premises are registered under this Act in St. Helens, and no infringements were found.

## FOOD AND DRUGS.

**Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**—During the year 317 formal samples and 136 informal samples were taken for analysis.

The natures of the samples taken, with the results of examination by the Public Analyst, are shown in Table 19.

In addition to the above, 322 informal samples of milk supplied to schools under the Milk-in-Schools Scheme were examined by means of the Gerber Test in the Department's own laboratory.

**Table 19.**

Number of samples taken during 1939 under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, together with the results of analysis by the Public Analyst.

ARTICLE.	Number of samples taken.		Number genuine.		Number adulterated.	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Arrowroot .....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Baking Powder .....	2	2	1	2	1	—
Bread..... .....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cereals :—						
Barley .....	2	3	2	3	—	—
Cornflour .....	1	4	1	4	—	—
Flour .....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Rice .....	5	3	5	3	—	—
Self Raising Flour .....	1	1	1	1	—	—
Cocoa .....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Coffee .....	3	1	3	1	—	—
Cooking Fats .....	8	—	8	—	—	—
Condiments .....	7	2	7	2	—	—
Confectionery, etc. ....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Dried Fruit, Spices, etc....	2	—	2	—	—	—
Dripping .....	2	—	2	—	—	—
Drugs, etc. ....	6	20	6	19	—	1
Ground Almonds .....	—	2	—	2	—	—
Jams and Jellies .....	13	11	11	11	2	—
Lard .....	10	7	9	7	1	—
Lemon Cheese .....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Margarine .....	9	5	9	5	—	—
Milk and Milk Products :						
Butter .....	6	5	6	5	—	—
Cheese .....	9	9	9	9	—	—
Fresh Cream .....	—	2	—	2	—	—
Milk .....	183	36	176	25	7	11
Mint .....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Potted and Tinned Meat and Fish .....	3	8	3	8	—	—
Sausages .....	15	6	13	4	2	2
Tripe .....	4	1	4	1	—	—
Sugar..... .....	4	1	4	1	—	—
Sweets .....	8	1	8	1	—	—
Tea .....	3	2	3	2	—	—
Tinned Fruit, etc. ....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Wines and Spirits, etc. :						
Scotch Whiskey .....	3	—	3	—	—	—
Irish Whiskey .....	2	—	2	—	—	—
Rum .....	2	—	2	—	—	—
	317	136	304	122	13	14

The appended statement shows the action taken in cases of adulterated samples taken formally :—

(a) Legal proceedings instituted :—

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>Adulteration and result of proceedings.</i>
1086	Beef Sausage	23% deficient in meat. Case against vendor dismissed. Manufacturer fined £5-0-0 and costs for giving false warranty.
1145	Milk	6.0% water added to milk 2.0% deficient in milk fat. Fined £2-0-0 and costs.
1147	Milk	16.0% added water. Fined £2-0-0 and costs.
78	Black Currant Jam	Judged on the Full Fruit Standard the jam was 43.0% deficient in fruit. Judged on the Lower Fruit Standard the jam was 15.0% deficient in fruit. Case against vendor dismissed. Manufacturer fined £1-0-0 and costs for giving a false warranty.
81	Black Currant Jam (Lower Fruit Standard)	Judged on the lower fruit standard the jam was 51.0% deficient in fruit. Case against vendor dismissed. Manufacturer fined £5-0-0 and costs for giving false warranty.
192	Lard	Contained 30.0% of fat other than lard. Case dismissed on payment of £1-15-0 costs. Proceedings subsequently taken against the wholesaler for giving a false warranty. Case dismissed.
196	Beef Sausage	10.0% deficient in meat. Case against vendor dismissed. Proceedings subsequently taken against manufacturer for giving a false warranty. Case dismissed.
225	Baking Powder.	51.0% deficient in carbon dioxide. Fined 10/-.



(b) No legal proceedings instituted, but in all cases the sellers were warned by the Health Committee :—

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>Adulteration.</i>
1202	Milk	6% deficient in milk fat.
1203	Milk	13% deficient in milk fat.
1235	Milk	9% deficient in milk fat.
6	Milk	5% deficient in milk fat.
1194	Milk	5% deficient in milk fat.

**The Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.**—No infringements of these Regulations were found during the year.

**The Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.**—No infringements of these Regulations were found during the year.

**Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations.**—All samples submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst are also examined for the presence of preservatives. No infringements of these Regulations were found during the year.

**Registration of Margarine Premises.**—During the year fifteen applications were granted by the Council under Section 34 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the registration of premises for the purpose of carrying on the business of wholesale dealers in margarine. The majority of these had been registered previously under the Food and Drugs Act, 1928.

**Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.**—12 informal samples of fertilisers and feeding stuffs were taken under the above Act during 1939, and all were found to be genuine.

No infringements of the Act in respect of labelling were found during the year.

**Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.**—At the end of the year there were 21 persons entered in the Local Authority's list of persons

entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List. The number of premises concerned was 46.

A total of 85 visits were paid to these premises during the year and no infringements were found.

**BAKEHOUSES.**—There are 64 bakehouses in St. Helens and mechanical power is employed in 42 instances. There are no basement bakehouses.

103 visits of inspection were made and 36 sanitary defects found, of which 34 were remedied during the year.

**DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.**—**Anthrax.**—4 cases of suspected Anthrax were reported during the year. In no instance was the disease confirmed.

**Tuberculosis.**—Three animals from dairy herds were slaughtered during the year under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

**Markets, Sales and Lairs Order of 1925.**—There are two markets for the sale of animals in St. Helens. One of these is situate behind the Royal Raven Hotel, Church Street, and the other between 5 and 21 Parr Street. The former is now little used.

In each case the lairs used in connection with these markets are licensed by the Local Authority.

### **XIII.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

**WATER.**—The water supply is from deep wells and boreholes in new red sandstone at Eccleston Hill, Whiston, Knowsley, Kirkby and Melling, supplemented by a supply from the Liverpool Corporation Rivington Main, and water from red sandstone above the coal measures at Collins Green. The water from the last mentioned source is subjected to chlorination and high pressure filtration before distribution.

There were no new sources of public water supply during the year.

The water from the deep wells and from Collins Green is hard, the average hardness being  $22.6^{\circ}$  and  $27^{\circ}$  respectively, and the hardness of both is reduced to approximately  $10.5^{\circ}$  by softening processes before distribution. The water from the Liverpool Corporation's Rivington Main is soft and is blended with hard water before distribution, so that in its ultimate distribution it also approximates  $10.5^{\circ}$ .

During the year further sections of the 12" diameter new trunk main supplying the Marshalls Cross, Clock Face, etc., areas from the Brown Edge Waterworks were completed.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—The supervision of rivers and streams in St. Helens is now carried out by the Lancashire Rivers Board.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—The construction of the Haresfinch intercepting sewer was continued during the year and authority has now been given for the work to be carried to completion notwithstanding the outbreak of war.

The Gerards Bridge and Merton Bank areas have been connected by the new sewer to the Parr sewage works. The Haresfinch and Carr Mill areas still require to be connected to this sewer, but rapid progress is being made with this work.

A section of the Rainford Brook has also been improved by the Catchment Board, part of this work being carried out in conjunction with the construction of the Haresfinch sewer.

A section of sewer in Liverpool Road which had deteriorated owing to the discharge into the sewer of chemical waste has also been relaid.



**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**—During the year 5 pail closets were converted to the water carriage system.

It is estimated there are still 106 pail closets and 282 privy middens, serving 105 and 291 houses respectively.

There are also 66 pail closets and 4 privy middens at various schools and works.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**—The removal and disposal of house refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department. There are no refuse disposal works, all refuse being disposed of by controlled tipping.

The following shows the percentage amount of refuse disposed of on each tip at present in use :—

Kurtz Tip .....	40%
Sorogold Street .....	42%
Parr Depot.....	15%
Laffak Farm, Eaves Lane and Gartons Lane .....	3%

During 1939, 251 ashpits serving 438 houses were abolished, and 736 galvanised metal dustbins were provided.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**—The total number of visits paid by sanitary inspectors during the year was 35,593. The nature of these inspections is shown in Table 20, and Table 21 contains a list of the notices served and the results of such notices.

**TABLE 20.**

Number and nature of inspections during 1939.  
Complaints of Nuisances.

Number of Complaints Investigated :—						
1. Housing Defects .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	767
2. Choked and Defective Drains .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	307
3. Emission of Smoke .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
4. Accumulations of Offensive Matter .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
5. Miscellaneous .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	250

Table 20—Continued.

## Inspections re Sanitation and Food Supply.

Dwelling Houses inspected .....	2415
Common Lodging Houses .....	291
Houses-let-in-lodgings .....	265
Common Yards, back-roads and passages .....	684
Horse-manure middensteads .....	1130
Fried Fish Shops .....	311
Fishmongers and Greengrocers .....	784
Butchers' Shops .....	970
Grocers' Shops .....	213
Ice Cream Premises .....	265
Shops Act, 1934 .....	463
Pharmacy and Poisons Act .....	85
Factories (with mechanical power) .....	383
Factories (without mechanical power) .....	668
Other premises under the Factories Act, 1937 .....	14
Bakehouses .....	103
Workplaces (including Offices) .....	111
Offensive Trades .....	233
Private Slaughterhouses .....	218
Food Preparing and Storing Places .....	286
Places of Public Entertainment .....	66
Tents, Vans and Sheds .....	25
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops .....	662
Schools .....	—
Testing Drains :—	
By Smoke .....	55
By Water .....	30
By Coloured Water .....	61
By Breaking Down .....	4
Ashes Receptacles .....	1343
Samples of Milk procured for :—	
Chemical Analysis .....	541
Biological Examination.....	98
Bacterial Content .....	164
Sediment .....	2
Phosphatase Test .....	6
Samples of Other Food and Drugs under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, etc. ....	234
Samples of Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs .....	12
Samples of Sewage for Analysis .....	—
Samples of Water procured .....	10
Conversions .....	5
Insufficient Water Supply .....	—
Smoke Observations .....	41
Visits to Glass Works (Straw Sterilisation) .....	56
Enquiries re Brokers' Licences .....	54
Visits to work in progress (P.H. Acts, Housing Acts, Conversions, etc.)	20167
Rag Flock Acts .....	—
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act .....	86
Pigstyes .....	33
Billets .....	127
Miscellaneous Visits .....	1819
	<hr/>
	35593

TABLE 21.

Number of defects for which notices were served during 1939, and results.

Subject of Notice	Pre-liminary Notices	Statutory Notices	Number complied with	Number outstanding at end of year	Prosecutions
Ditches requiring cleansing .....	11	—	9	5	—
Defective drains .....	207	45	184	29	—
Insufficient surface water drainage .....	—	—	—	—	—
Choked drains .....	84	17	89	10	—
Insufficient closet accommodation .....	71	—	62	13	—
Absence of proper sink .....	154	33	173	43	—
Defective water closets .....	88	29	105	6	—
Defective pail closets .....	2	—	7	1	—
Defective privy middens .....	5	—	8	2	—
Defective gullies and dishstones .....	120	20	117	8	—
Defective sink waste pipes .....	306	92	297	20	—
Defective W.C. cisterns and flushing fittings .....	136	31	123	16	—
Defective urinals .....	2	—	2	—	—
Defective soil pipes .....	19	4	10	21	—
Sink waste pipes connected with drains .....	4	6	7	—	—
Yards and passages unpaved .....	10	4	15	11	—
Defective yard paving .....	510	223	481	35	—
Dampness arising from :—					
Defective roofs .....	1039	379	1022	149	—
Defective eavesgutters.....	673	211	657	37	—
Defective downspouts .....	468	122	448	66	—
Defective external pointing .....	1821	520	1816	35	—
Insufficient lighting of rooms .....	—	—	—	—	—
Insufficient ventilation of rooms .....	522	57	529	10	—
Absence of ventilated foodstores .....	9	—	8	3	—
Unventilated foodstore .....	58	—	54	6	—
Insufficient water supply .....	7	—	8	—	—
Defective manure middensteads .....	—	—	—	—	—
Dwelling houses to be whitewashed .....	—	—	1	—	—
Defective chimney flues .....	72	11	73	34	—
Defective ashpits or dustbins to be repaired.....	72	46	92	27	—
Defective ashpits to be abolished .....	288	16	251	342	—
Galvanised Metal Dust Bins to be provided .....	609	3	736	122	—
Defective window sash-frames and sashcords .....	979	265	928	80	—
Defective floors .....	967	271	939	73	—
Defective stairs .....	234	28	238	10	—
Defective internal plaster-work .....	747	254	742	31	—
Defective fireplaces .....	697	313	706	44	—
Defective washboilers .....	247	79	252	21	—
Defective doors, cupboards, &c. ....	873	271	894	46	—
Defective gas pipes and fittings .....	15	2	15	—	—
Defective water pipes and fittings.....	1	1	3	—	—
Defective yard division walls .....	359	89	362	32	—
Dangerous and defective chimney stacks .....	167	47	152	26	—
Fractured internal walls .....	67	10	59	29	—
Defective and bulging external walls .....	146	40	167	14	—
Filthy condition of premises .....	112	3	109	30	—
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter .....	42	6	57	14	—
Keeping of animals, &c. ....	4	—	4	—	—



Table 21.—Continued.

Miscellaneous .....	594	93	554	87	—
Contraventions of :—					
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 .....	21	—	21	—	—
Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 .....	—	—	—	—	—
Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927 .....	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial Cream Act, 1929 .....	—	—	—	—	—
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 .....	—	—	—	—	—
Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 .....	56	—	56	—	—
Public Health (Preservatives, &c. in Food) Regulations .....	—	—	—	—	—
Factories Act, 1937 .....	159	—	109	50	—
Shops Act, 1934 .....	61	—	49	44	—
Contraventions of Bye-laws :—					
Common Lodging Houses .....	—	—	—	—	—
Houses-let-in-lodgings .....	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, vans, sheds .....	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses .....	—	—	—	—	—
Prevention of Nuisances .....	3	—	5	—	—
	13918	3641	13805	1682	—

## Referred to other Departments.

Choked Street Gullies, &c., reported to Borough Engineer .....	51
Waste of water reported to Water Department .....	189
Dangerous structures reported to Borough Engineer .....	21
Escapes of Coal Gas reported to Gas Engineer .....	14
Choked Sewers reported to Borough Engineer .....	14
Insufficient water supply reported to Water Engineer .....	—
Unauthorised Erections reported to Borough Engineer .....	9
Choked Drains, etc. reported to Borough Engineer (Corporation property) .....	7
Unpaved Passages reported to Borough Engineer .....	—

During the year, 307 complaints of choked drains were made to the Department. Of this number, 217 drains were freed from obstruction by members of the staff of the sanitary department, thus obviating the necessity for serving notices upon the owners.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.**—Forty-one observations of industrial chimneys were taken during the year, each observation extending for a period of half an hour.

In 17 instances black smoke was emitted in excess of an aggregate of three minutes. Representations were made to each of the firms concerned resulting in a number of improvements either to the boiler house plant, the quality of the fuel used or to the methods of stoking.

**FACTORIES.**—Six defects were reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories, and these were remedied during the year.

Table 22 gives particulars of the administrative action taken.

**Table 22.**

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
FACTORIES with mechanical power .....	383	81	Nil
FACTORIES without mechanical power .....	668	27	Nil
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) .....	14	Nil	Nil
TOTAL .....	1065	108	Nil

2. Defects Found.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness .....	32	23	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .....	6	4	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .....	3	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :—				
Insufficient .....	10	6	—	—
Unsuitable or defective.....	89	62	—	—
Not separate for sexes .....	2	—	—	—
Other offences .....	17	13	—	—
TOTAL .....	159	109	Nil	Nil

3. Outwork in unwholesome premises, Section 111—Nil.

**Outworkers.**—One list of outworkers was received from an employer during the year.

## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

**Offensive Trades.**—There are 6 offensive trades in the Borough, consisting of 4 tripe boilers, 1 gut scraper and 1 rag and bone dealer.

During the year 233 visits were paid to premises of this nature.

**Tents, Vans, Sheds, Etc.**—At the end of 1939, one caravan only was known to the Department to be used for human habitation. As this caravan has already been dealt with under the Housing Act, it is anticipated that it will be vacated and demolished in the near future.

**Camping Sites.**—Apart from the above there are no sites in St. Helens which are used as camping sites, nor have any licences been granted by the Council authorising the use of any land for camping purposes.

**Houses-Let-in-Lodgings.**—There are at present 5 premises known to the Department to be used as houses-let-in-lodgings.

265 visits were paid to these premises during the year.

**Common Lodging Houses.**—The number of premises registered as Common Lodging Houses at the end of the year was 5.

All registered premises were regularly inspected and 291 visits were paid for this purpose.

**Byelaws with Respect to Nuisances.**—These Byelaws, which were obtained in 1930, deal with the prevention of nuisances arising from snow, filth, dust, ashes and rubbish, and for the pre-



vention of the keeping of animals on any premises so as to be injurious to health.

The byelaws have proved very effective for the control of pig-keeping. There were 41 persons in the Borough known to be engaged in the keeping of pigs at the end of the year.

**OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS.—Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.**—47 complaints of infestation of premises by rats were received during the year. As in previous years it was found that the chief cause of infestation was either defective drains or sewers in the neighbourhood of the premises concerned. When these defects were made good, no further complaints were received.

**Shops Act, 1934.**—By arrangement with the Committee responsible for the general administration of the Shops Acts, the Sanitary Department in St. Helens takes responsibility for those provisions of the Act relating to lighting, washing facilities and facilities for the taking of meals.

During the year 254 of the principal shop premises in the Borough were surveyed and 61 notices served requiring compliance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Act. Many of the defects found have now been remedied or the work had been commenced at the end of the year.

A total of 463 visits were paid to shop premises during 1939.

**Offices.**—During the year 111 visits were paid to office premises in the Borough. These premises were found to be in a generally satisfactory condition and, taking a standard of 250 cubic feet per person, no overcrowding was found to exist.

**Places of Public Entertainment.**—66 visits were paid to places of public entertainment during 1939. The condition of these premises throughout the year was found to be generally satisfactory.

**Canal Boats.**—There is only one canal in St. Helens, viz., the St. Helens Canal, and this has not been used for traffic for a number of years. An order authorising the abandonment of this canal was made by the Ministry of Transport on 2nd April, 1931.

**Mortuaries.**—A public mortuary with post-mortem room is maintained behind the Town Hall, and is under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. During the year 44 bodies were received into the mortuary, and 20 post-mortem examinations were conducted.

**Arrangements for the Disposal of the Dead.**—The cemetery provided and maintained by the Local Authority is 44.22 acres in extent, of which 22.081 acres are still available for burial purposes. In addition there are 23.80 acres of land adjoining which can be utilised for extension purposes.

There are private cemeteries still in use in connection with the following churches :—

St. Peter's, Parr ; St. Nicholas', Sutton ; St. Thomas', Windsor Road ; St. Anne's, Sutton ; and Windleshaw Abbey.

**Swimming Baths.**—Indoor swimming baths, situate in Boundary Road, are maintained by the Corporation. There are two plunge baths, and the method of purification of the water is by means of continuous filtration and chlorination.

**The Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1918.**—No sample of rag flock was taken during the year.

**Sanitary Condition of Schools.**—During 1939 there were 41 public elementary schools with 80 departments in the Borough.

Conditions in Council schools are on the whole good, all these being of fairly recent construction. In some of the older schools, however, pail closets are still in existence, whilst in others trough closets with automatic flushing cisterns are still being used. I would urge that wherever possible the remainder of the unsatisfactory types of closets should be replaced.

## XIV.—HOUSING.

**STATISTICS.**—Of the 432 houses erected during 1939, 118 were erected by the Local Authority and 314 by private or commercial enterprise.

Table 23 shows the number of dwelling-houses erected in each ward since 1918.

**Table 23.**

The wards of the borough in which dwelling-houses have been erected during the years mentioned.

Year	North Eccles- ton	South Eccles- ton	Central	North Windle	South Windle	Hard- shaw	East Sutton	West Sutton	Parr	Total
1918	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
1919	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
1920	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1921	—	1	—	41	—	—	—	6	—	48
1922	—	1	—	164	—	—	—	—	—	165
1923	1	5	2	2	—	2	—	33	—	45
1924	2	24	—	25	—	—	2	45	5	103
1925	8	76	—	90	—	1	9	48	15	247
1926	19	172	—	106	16	4	19	63	51	450
1927	33	189	—	125	3	68	160	14	56	648
1928	12	116	3	237	5	2	97	13	335	820
1929	4	219	—	35	—	21	26	5	185	495
1930	24	148	1	39	—	53	41	3	54	363
1931	79	61	—	52	1	15	45	29	17	299
1932	449	77	1	10	—	27	69	37	3	673
1933	115	56	2	20	—	34	69	1	46	343
*1934	41	43	—	52	—	20	100	13	74	343
1935	74	238	4	104	3	32	133	59	85	732
1936	27	72	24	144	2	37	121	56	239	722
1937	8	196	19	59	7	44	194	102	115	744
1938	44	256	113	185	2	8	152	176	239	1175
1939	2	47	25	158	5	11	70	79	35	432

\*Ward boundaries altered.

A statement as to the number of houses erected with and without State assistance, together with a summary of the work of the department in regard to housing, is given in Table 24.



Table 24.

## Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	4322
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority .....	1188
(ii) By private or commercial enterprise .....	—
(c) Without State Assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority.....	—
(ii) By private or commercial enterprise.....	314

1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	2415
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	22582
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	391
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	1573
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	9
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	2403

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....	1927
--	------

3.—Action under Statutory powers during the year :—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... | nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—     |      |
| (a) By owners .....  | nil. |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....   | nil. |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... | 376  |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—              |      |
| (a) By owners .....  | 254  |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....   | nil. |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... | 2  |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....    | 58 |

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....  | 7    |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... | nil. |

## 4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding :—

A.	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	1066
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein .....	1270
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein .....	9192
B.		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	110
C.	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	58
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	418
D.		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....	nil.
E.		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report .....	nil.

**SLUM CLEARANCE.**—The following table records the department's activities in regard to slum clearance each year since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930.

**NUMBER OF CLEARANCE AREAS AND PREMISES REPRESENTED SINCE THE PASSING OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.**

Year	Clearance Areas	Houses in Clearance Areas	Individual Unfit Houses	Back-to-Back Houses	Closing Orders	Caravans	Wooden Huts	Total No. of Houses Represented
1931	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1932	3	39	—	—	—	—	—	39
1933	—	—	43	—	—	—	—	43
1934	11	91	6	52	—	—	—	149
1935	13	55	36	16	—	1	—	108
1936	7	194	37	20	—	—	—	251
1937	24	345	22	12	1	41	36	457
1938	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	24
1939	—	—	2	—	7	—	—	9



**Individual Unfit Houses.**—Official Representations under the Housing Act, 1936, were made during the year regarding the following two individual unfit houses. Demolition Orders were made in respect of each house.

<i>Description of dwellinghouse.</i>	<i>Date Represented.</i>	<i>Date Demolition Order made.</i>
118 front, Broad Oak Road	8/3/1939	7/6/1939
118 back, Broad Oak Road	8/3/1939	7/6/1939

**Parts of Building.**—Official representations under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, were made regarding the following premises on the 8th March, 1939, and Closing Orders were made by the Council on the 7th June, 1939 :—

Parts of the Building known as 2a Market Street, St. Helens.

Right front room, first floor, occupied by Joseph Hatton.

Middle front room, first floor, unoccupied.

Left front room, first floor, unoccupied and adjoining and communicating with the middle front room, first floor.

Right back room, first floor, unoccupied.

Left back room, first floor, unoccupied and adjoining and communicating with the right back room, first floor.

Right front room, second floor, unoccupied.

Right middle front room, second floor, unoccupied.

Left middle front room, second floor, unoccupied.

Left front room, second floor, occupied by Frederick Latham and used as living-room.

Left back room, second floor, occupied by Frederick Latham and used as bedroom.

**Re-housing.**—Table 25 shows the sites allocated to the end of the year for the re-housing of persons displaced or to be displaced from premises dealt with under all slum clearance schemes since their commencement in 1932.

TABLE 25.

Name of Site	Numbers and Types of Houses erected or to be erected							Providing Accommodation for persons
	2-bedroomed		3-bedroomed	4-bedroomed		Aged Persons	Total	
* Hardshaw Brook	6		20	6		—	32	166
* Rivington Road	16		42	2		—	60	288
* Gaskell Street	20		38	8		—	66	326
* Virgil Street	—		2	—		—	2	10
* Simms Avenue	8		20	—		—	28	132
* Boardmans Lane	6		22	6		—	34	176
* Sorogold Street	12		10	6		22	50	184
	1- bedroomed		2- bedroomed	3- bedroomed		4- bedroomed		
	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	5 persons	6 persons	7 persons	8 persons	
† Crossley Road	—	—	—	44	10	2	4	60
† Grange Park	—	12	—	138	28	12	10	208
† Marsden Avenue	—	6	—	22	2	—	2	32
† Sutton Manor	—	—	—	34	4	—	—	40
† Ramford Street	12	8	—	118	18	8	6	172
† Princess Avenue	16	24	—	—	—	—	—	40
Greenbank	—	—	—	38	14	—	—	52
East Lancashire Road	4	10	8	88	40	16	6	178
Totals .....							1054	5222

\* Houses erected in accordance with the standard laid down by the Housing Act, 1923.

† Houses erected or to be erected in accordance with the standard suggested in the Ministry of Health Circular 1539, dated 7th May, 1936.

These sites provide accommodation for 5,204 persons in 1,054 houses. From the commencement of re-housing to the end of the year, 3,914 persons had been re-housed in 906 of these houses.

**Provision of Furniture.**—A scheme is now in operation which allows the purchase, by necessitous persons displaced from slum clearance schemes, of furniture and other household effects on easy payment terms.

**Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts, 1920-1938.**—During the year 34 applications were received from tenants for sanitary certificates under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts.

Certificates were granted in 30 instances and in five instances certificates were rescinded, the work required to put the houses in a reasonable state of repair having been completed satisfactorily.

**DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS.**—During the year 26 Council houses were reported by the Housing Department to be infested with bed bugs. Of these 24 were sprayed with Solution D and, where infestation was serious, architraves, skirting boards and picture rails were removed and separately treated prior to spraying. The remaining 2 houses could not be adequately dealt with by means of spraying and were fumigated by Hydrocyanic gas. This work was carried out by a private contractor.

45 other houses infested with bed bugs also came to the notice of the sanitary staff during the year. In these instances the tenants were advised as to the best methods of disinfestation, including the periodic fumigation of the rooms with sulphur, and periodic advisory visits were paid by the sanitary staff and the premises kept under observation until free from infestation.



Where re-housing takes place from premises dealt with under slum clearance schemes, the furniture and household effects are subjected in all cases to fumigation by Hydrocyanic gas before removal into the new houses. This work also is carried out by a private contractor. The bedding is subjected to steam disinfection at the Council's Isolation Hospital. The furniture and household effects from 339 premises were disinfested by this means during the year.